'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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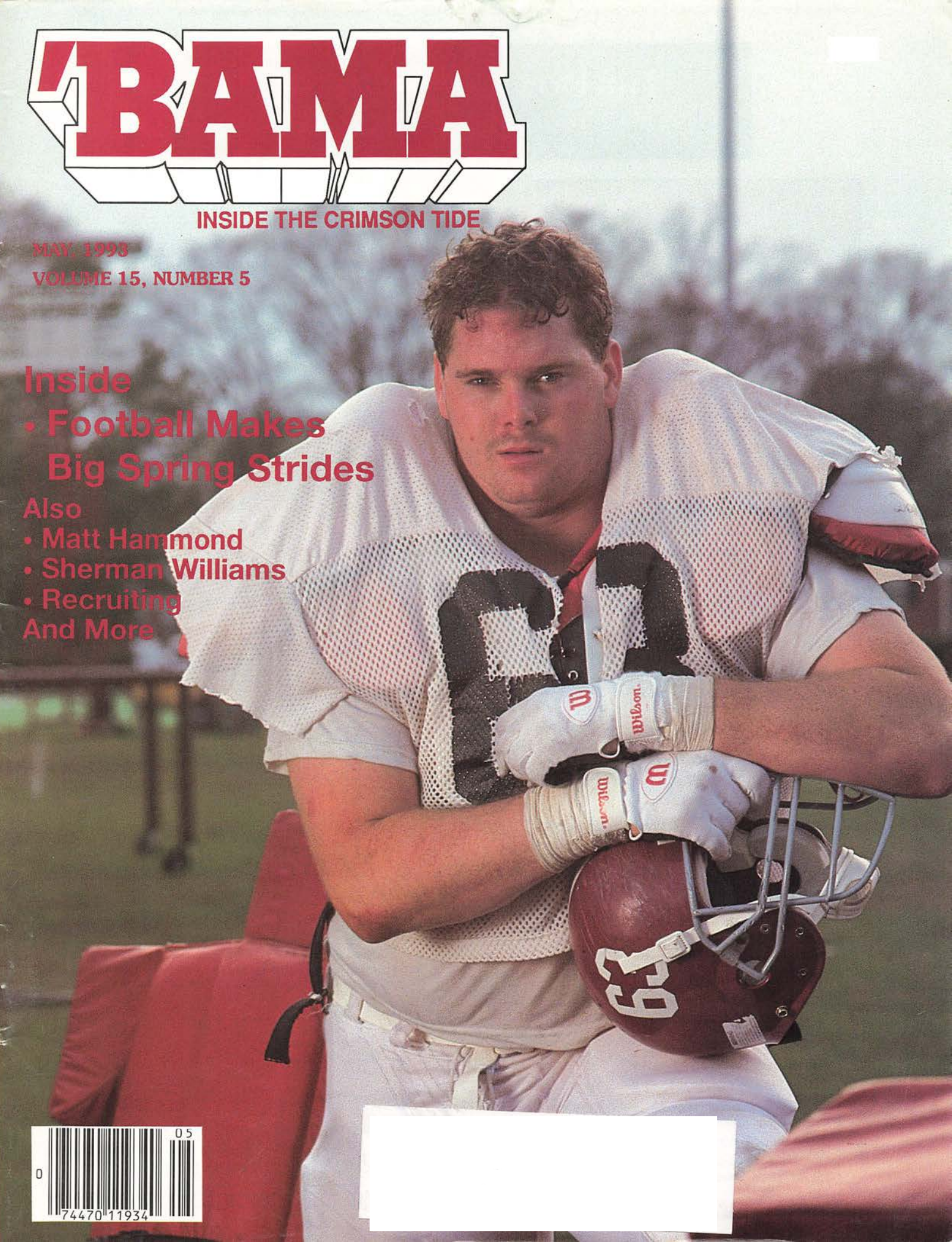

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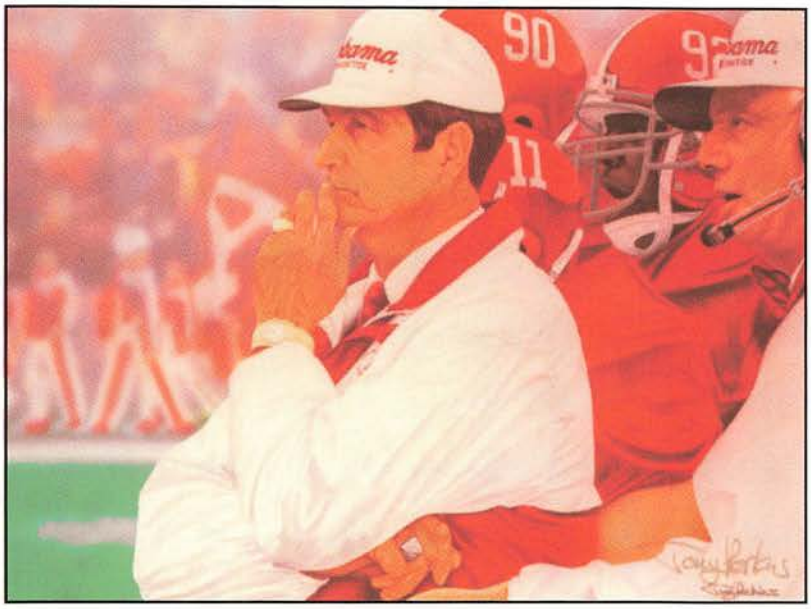

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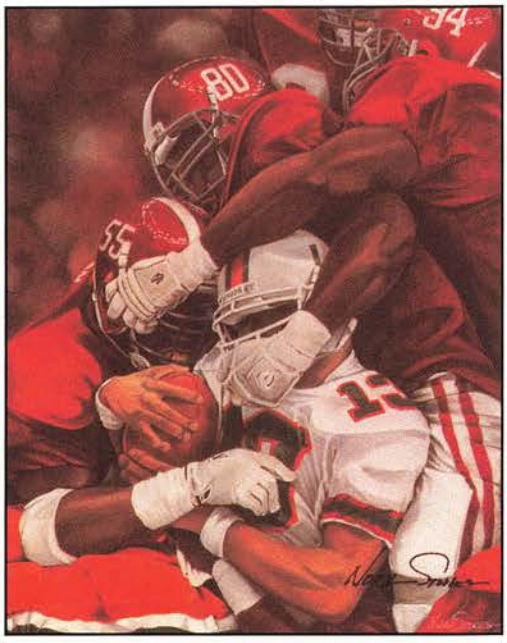

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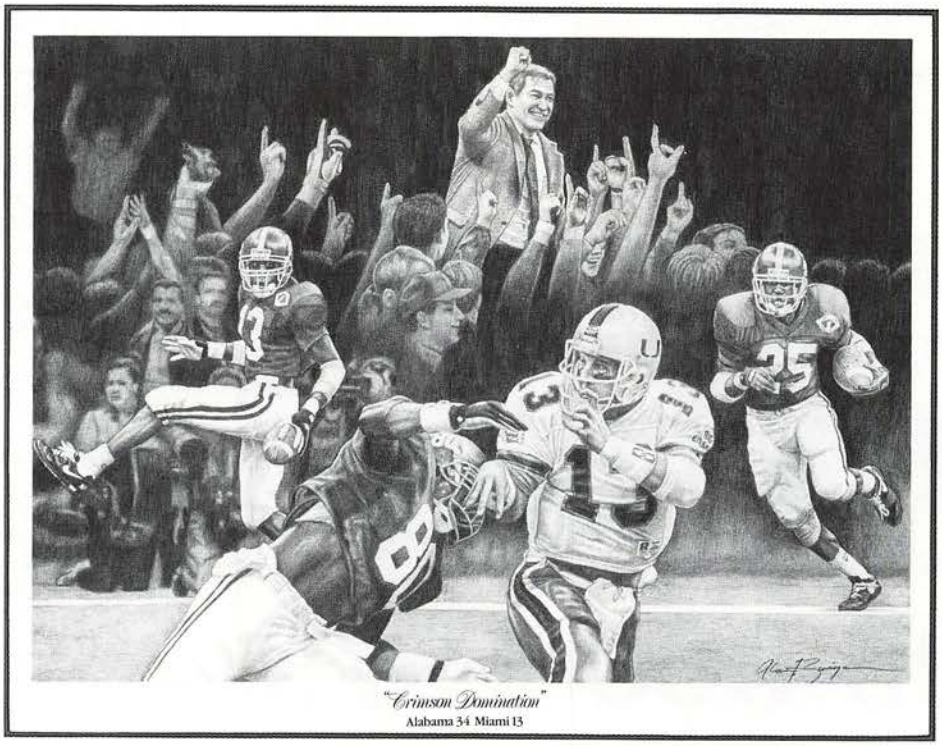

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by 7 p.m. CDT each Sunday in May, then June 1, July 1, August 1 (Selection 4)

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Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair
Editor: Kirk McNair
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes
Artist: Dan Proctor
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy
Publisher's Assistant: Vera Dowdle

Contributing Writers: John Barnes, John Bradshaw, Jimmie Cummings, Tommy Deas, Donna Fromme, Rush Garner, Julia McNair, Donald F. Staffo

Contributing Photographers: Spectrum-Southeast, University of Alabama

Computer Consultant: Stephen Bushery, ComSouth

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Alabama is a lot closer to being able to contend for another national championship in 1993 than the Tide was before a very satisfactory spring training. Backup quarterback Brian Burgdorf was one of many who made noticeable improvement. **by Kirk McNair**

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Sherman Williams goes into his junior season as the co-first team tailback with Chris Anderson. Williams says there is no jealousy between the running backs, but rather that they push each other to make themselves and the team better as they strive to repeat as champions. **by Tommy Deas**

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Goal Is To Help Lead Bama To Title 14
Senior offensive tackle Matt Hammond has had a few honors as a Crimson Tide football player, but his main goals are team goals, notably the national championship. If the Tide makes it that far again this year, Hammond could be a 50-game starter for Bama. **by Donald F. Staffo**

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Tommy Johnson, an upcoming junior cornerback, got his first football start in the Sugar Bowl and gave an outstanding performance in a game of great performances by Crimson Tiders. Now he's ticketed as the starting right cornerback and wants another national crown. **by John Barnes**

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Spring Football:

Tide Takes Big Strides To 1993

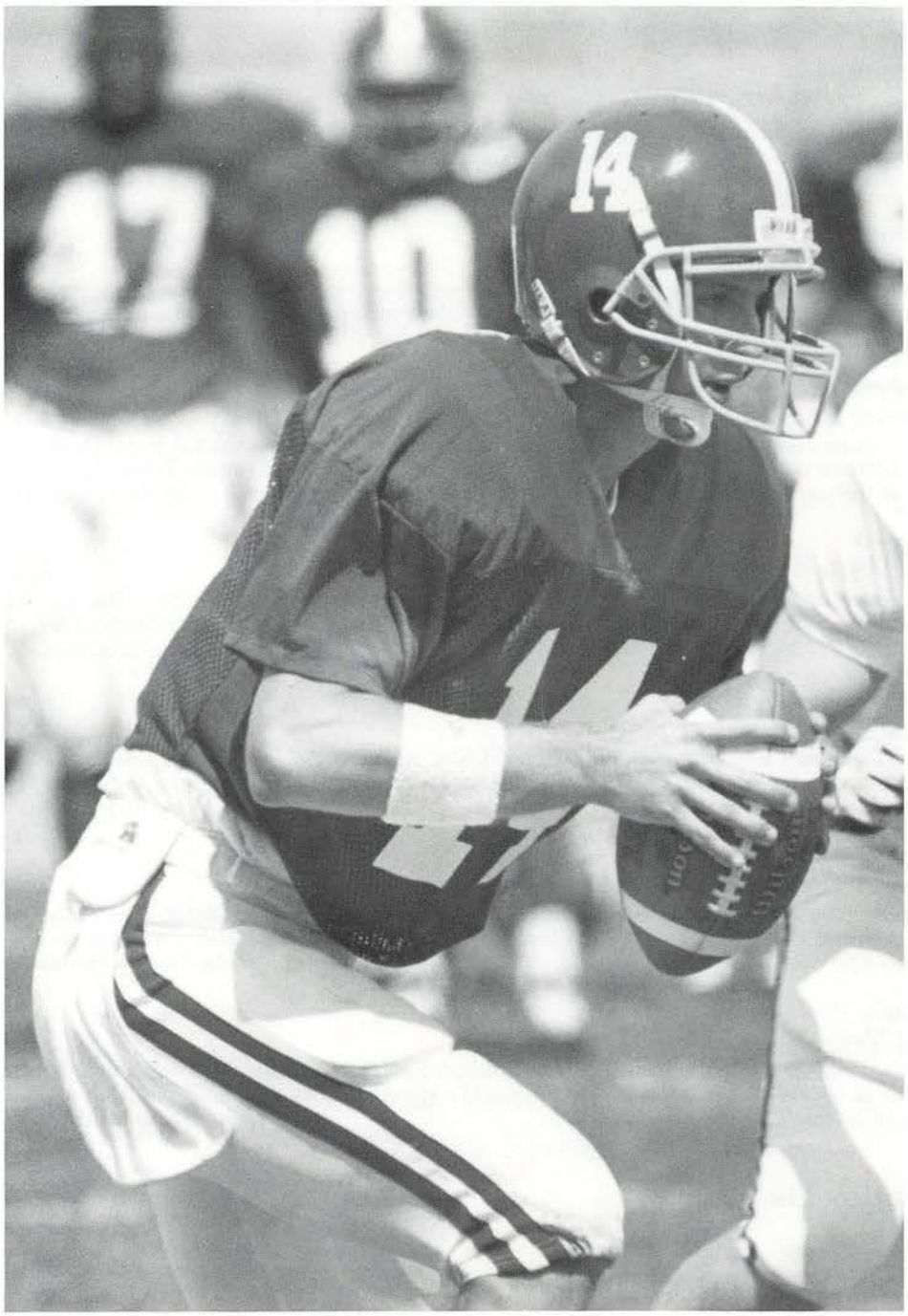
by Kirk McNair

Brian Burgdorf was only one of many Tiders who make progress in spring

Just for the sake of argument, suppose Alabama's football team loses a game in the next year or two.

If Jay Barker is the starting quarterback in that game, one can almost hear a group of Crimson Tide followers grumbling, "That damned Mal Moore. You could see this was coming."

If Brian Burgdorf is the starting quarterback in that game, expect something like, "That damned Mal Moore. Doesn't he know that if it ain't broke, you don't fix it?"



Jay Barker is Alabama's returning quarterback, an upcoming junior who has quarterbacked 17 consecutive winning games, including last year's 13-0 national championship season. Brian Burgdorf is Barker's primary competition. Last year as a redshirt freshman he was Barker's backup, albeit a little-used backup. Mal Moore is Alabama's assistant head football coach, the coach of Alabama's quarterbacks, and, though without title, generally considered Bama's offensive coordinator, the job he handled in the 1970s for Paul Bryant.

So does Alabama have the makings of a quarterback controversy? And, more important, is Alabama going to lose a game in the next couple of years?

As to the former question, Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings is not worried. "I think it's good to have two quarterbacks," Stallings said. "Our goal going into spring training was to find the top two players at every position. I think we know who our top two quarterbacks will be."

And that goes a long way in answering the second question. Alabama's spring training was one in which strides were made to successfully defend the national title. And the biggest strides may have been taken by Burgdorf.

Burgdorf is in a familiar role, that of the unknown quality. It seems every college football team has a backup quarterback who has not been seen (or seen very little) by the fans and those fans are convinced that the coaches who see the players each day in practice are playing the wrong quarterback.

There is the legitimate argument that Alabama has won 17 consecutive games with Barker at quarterback more in spite of Barker's accomplishments than because of them. No one would suggest he has been a great quarterback, except those who judge quarterback performance on the basis of the final score. He does not pass exceptionally well, is a below-average runner, and does not appear to possess quarterback instincts (such as "feeling" the backside rush to

Brian Burgdorf won the "Dixie Howell Award" as the outstanding player in the A-Day Game and had a generally outstanding spring, but he still faces an uphill fight to beat out Jay Barker as Alabama's starting quarterback.
Barry Fikes Photo

avoid the sack). Nevertheless, in 1992 he was Alabama's best quarterback by a wide margin.

Things may be different in 1993. Burgdorf came to Alabama with a bad shoulder, the result of an injury suffered in a baseball game after he was signed by Bama in 1991. He was redshirted his first season, then had only spot duty last year, a year in which it is easy to forget that Alabama's undefeated season was frequently just a play away from blemish. There is some irony that Burgdorf rarely got a chance to show what he could do because the team under Barker failed to get Alabama far enough ahead where coaches could comfortably substitute at the most important position on the field.

But Burgdorf was the story of spring training in 1993. It goes beyond being named winner of the Dixie Howell Award as the outstanding player in the A-Day Game. Going into spring training Stallings said that Burgdorf would get most of the work, that Tide coaches knew what Barker could do and they wanted to see what his backup could do. (The same arrangement held forth at many other positions, too, as Bama worked to find backups to established starters, as well as replacements for departed starters.) Getting most of the work at the premier football position enabled Burgdorf to stand out, and he did standout work. His passes were crisp and accurate, his operation of the team precise, and he has the ability to turn a potential bad play into a very good play with his running ability. He also has quarterback presence, knowing when to pass, when the rush is coming, et al. If Barker has the advantage of having been Alabama's quarterback for over a year, Burgdorf has the advantage of having always been a quarterback. Barker's pre-Alabama quarterback experience was one year in an option offense.

Beyond Barker and Burgdorf (or, controversially, Burgdorf and Barker) there are a handful of quarterbacks, but based on spring work it is reasonable to expect that depth will come from incoming freshmen.

One of the big surprises of spring training was the running of junior walkon fullback Marcus Moring (32). Fullback is an area of limited depth for Alabama going into 1993.
Barry Fikes Photo

Alabama did not lose many starters from its offense, but it lost both its starting fullback (Martin Houston) and halfback (Derrick Lassic) to graduation, so there will be a new set of runners in Alabama's I formation offense in 1993.

Junior Tarrant Lynch (6-0, 240) is the only fullback with experience at the position, one reason sophomore Eric Turner (6-1, 210) was moved from strong safety to offense. If Lynch will get his weight down about 15 pounds, he has the potential to be an exceptional fullback. One of the real surprises of the spring also came at fullback as junior walkon Marcus Moring (6-2, 215) had very good scrimmages.

Stallings does not expect a fall-off at tailback as senior Chris Anderson (5-9, 178) and junior Sherman Williams (5-10, 190) were top backups last year. This is another spot where depth is expected to come from incoming freshmen.

A goal of Alabama's offense in 1993 will be to increase pass production, and the Tide has the wide receivers to make that a realistic goal. Junior flanker David Palmer (5-9, 170), one of the most exciting and productive players in storied Crimson Tide football history, heads the list of wide receivers. Palmer did not have as good a year as a sophomore as he had as a freshman, perhaps because of his much-publicized off-the-field problems, but also perhaps because he was not in great shape going into last fall. He has pledged to spend this summer working out. Palmer is backed by redshirt freshman Marcel West (5-11, 175) and junior Rick Brown (6-0, 175), who had a very big spring after a 1992 season in which he was plagued with injuries. Senior Kevin Lee (6-1, 186), the team's fastest player, is the returning starter at split end and he's backed by junior Curt Brown (6-3, 185). Additionally, the Tide expects sophomore Toderick Malone (6-1, 185 and out of football for a year for academic reasons) to be a factor in the '93 receiving corps.

Alabama has been primarily a run-

ning team, in part because graduated tight end Steve Busky was more efficient as a blocker than as a pass receiver. Bama's tight ends are still expected to be blockers first, but two Mississippi sophomores battling for the starting job are both very good receivers, too. Kris Mangum (6-5, 258) and Tony Johnson (6-4, 250) are the candidates at tight end, and Mangum came out of the spring as the leader because of his blocking ability. The third tight end is senior Matthew Pine (6-3, 221), but Stallings has to consider Pine's critical job as snapper before risking him at tight end.

One of the most difficult places for a college football team to be strong is in the offensive line, where the combination of brains and brawn is mandatory and experience critical. Alabama returns two three-year starters and two two-year starters in the offensive front. Center Tobie Sheils (6-2, 260) was an All-Southeastern Conference performer last year and returns to start for his fourth season. He's backed by senior Dennis Deason (6-1, 270). A primary goal of the spring was to find further backup help (and a starter for the future) and redshirt freshman John Causey (6-3, 260) emerged ahead of soph Tim Barnett (6-5, 263), who worked at nose tackle late in the spring, and junior Chad Gladden (6-3, 254).

Another three-year starter (and, as Sheils, already a graduate) is left tackle Matt Hammond (6-3, 270). Junior Joey Harville (6-5, 276) was Hammond's backup last year and sophomore Kareem McNeal (6-5, 287) is also in the mix. At right tackle, senior Roosevelt Patterson (6-4, 290) had a spectacular Sugar Bowl. One of Alabama's spring experiments was the move of soph Shannon Brown (6-5, 263) from third team nose tackle to offensive tackle, and it was a successful move. Redshirt freshman Pete DiMario (6-5, 270) and sophomore Rory Segrest (6-5, 265) are also candidates.

Junior Jon Stevenson (6-2, 273) was a starter at tackle as a true freshman, then moved to right guard last fall and he is one of Alabama's strongest players. He's backed by 1991 starter senior William Barger (6-3, 270) and junior Napoleon Folks (6-3, 288). Senior John Clay (6-2, 265) is the heir apparent at the only offensive line vacancy, the left guard spot of the graduated George Wilson. But Clay is not far ahead of sophomore Maurice Belser (6-2, 285) and redshirt freshman Jeremy Pennington (6-3, 270).

One of the toughest drills in football, and one which tells coaches a great deal about a player's ability, is the middle drill, also known as three-on-three (and also known as a lot of unprintable things by the players). It is a drill in which three offensive linemen go head-to-head with three defensive players (linemen and/or linebackers) in a restricted area. Throughout the spring, Belser and Mangum were standouts in the middle drill.

In 1992 Alabama led the nation in rushing defense and total defense and was second in passing defense and scoring defense. Alabama also ranked among the nation's best in takeaway-giveaway statistics (36-20) and in preventing third down conversions (38-170, 22.4 per cent). It's no secret that a great deal of that defense has graduated, but spring training indicated that plenty returns.

Although there are several big losses for Alabama's defense, the most important losses are up front. The Crimson Tide's bookend All-America players, Eric Curry and John Copeland, were the heart of the Bama defensive line. Their spots (ends in Alabama's nomenclature) are expected to be claimed by senior Jeremy Nunley (6-5, 270), who was the backup to both Copeland and Curry last year, and junior Elverett Brown 6-5, 265), a backup nose tackle in 1992. The starter at nose tackle, James Gregory (6-4, 283), returns for his senior year.

There is adequate depth in the defensive line, in part because most of the defensive linemen are worked at all three positions. Junior Damiean Jeffries (6-4, 256) and sophomore Bryan Thornton (6-7, 280) have experience and the Tide is counting on play from sophomores Vann Bodden (6-4, 255) and Kendrick Burton (6-6, 290 and out of football this year for academic reasons) and redshirt freshmen Ozell Powell (6-5, 280), Laron White (6-2, 260) and Kelvin Moore (6-3, 260).

The spring is a time for experimentation, and experiments involving defensive linemen were fruitful. White's play at nose tackle enabled the moves of Elverett Brown to left end (although Brown will keep his hand in at nose tackle) and of Shannon Brown to the offensive line. Moore came to Alabama as a linebacker, but ate his way up to end. He needs experience, but had a very productive spring as a down lineman. Powell was very good during his redshirt season and was on his way to having a good spring, but suffered an ankle injury that hampered his progress.

In Alabama's defensive scheme the outside linebackers have different functions. The right linebacker is a hybrid, part linebacker, part defensive back. For that reason Bama takes big defensive backs and converts them to the position, and with good results. Lemanski Hall (6-1, 225) was All-SEC as a junior, and he's backed by junior Will Brown (6-1, 220), like Hall a former strong safety. Behind them is redshirt freshman John Tanks (6-4, 215). The left outside linebacker is bigger, and there are big shoes to fill there with Antonio London having graduated. Sophomore André Royal (6-1, 225) is considered the favorite for the job, although he's coming off a redshirt year after having under gone knee surgery and was limited in the spring. Last year's backup man, senior Victor Lockett (6-0, 243), and redshirt freshman Darrell Blackburn (6-4, 225) are also contenders. Lockett suffered an ankle injury early in spring drills and never fully recovered.

Bama played the Sugar Bowl game without its leading inside linebacker, junior Michael Rogers (6-1, 220), who was injured in an automobile accident prior to the game. Because of that injury, Stallings worked Rogers into practices very slowly, and by the end of the spring he appeared to be as good as ever at the strong inside linebacker spot. Rogers is backed by sophomore Jeff Torrence (6-1, 215). Junior Mario Morris (6-0, 220), who took Rogers' place against Miami, will now replace the graduated Derrick Oden at the weakside inside linebacker spot. He's backed by sophomore John Walters (6-2, 225) and redshirt freshman Lamont Floyd (6-2, 240).

Although Alabama lost only one defensive back to graduation, George "Takeaway" Teague, there is some concern about secondary depth in that Alabama assistant coach Bill Oliver frequently uses five defensive backs, often uses six, and has used as many as seven or eight at one time. Another worry is that hash marks have been narrowed this year, making the short side of the field wider and putting more of a premium on secondary speed. In addition to Teague, Bama moved Eric Turner from a backup strong safety spot to fullback.

Nevertheless, about the only one who will cry much over Bama's secondary situation is Oliver. The Tide

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Two excellent defensive performers for Alabama in spring training were linebacker Mario Morris (58), who is expected to move into a fulltime starting job this year after having been a starter in place of Michael Rogers in the Sugar Bowl, and converted linebacker Kelvin Moore (95), who looks to have a future as a defensive lineman.

Barry Fikes Photo

returns one of the best ever in senior Antonio Langham at left cornerback. There are few who had more to do with Alabama being in the Sugar Bowl last year than Langham, whose spectacular plays late in the season kept the national championship hopes alive. Langham (6-1, 170 and an upcoming senior) had a blocked punt for a touchdown in a tough win over Mississippi State in Starkville, intercepted a pass and returned it 61 yards for six points to start Bama on its way to a 17-0 win over Auburn, then had a dramatic late-game interception and 37-yard return for the winning points in Alabama's 28-21 win over Florida to give the Tide the title in the inaugural SEC Championship Game.

While Langham is the best-known of the returning Alabama defensive backs, the secondary–like most areas of Bama's football team–is a strong one. Teague's right cornerback spot is expected to be filled by junior Tommy Johnson (5-10, 175), who also had a big Sugar Bowl game with a critical caused fumble, a sack, and an interception that led to Alabama's first touchdown of the second half. Willie Gaston (5-11, 180), a junior who saw extensive playing time last season, provides depth at both cornerback positions.

Alabama returns its starting safeties in junior Sam Shade (6-1, 190) on the strong side and senior Chris Donnelly (6-0, 180) on the weak side. The backup at both positions will be redshirt freshman Blair Canale (6-3, 190), who missed last fall with knee surgery. Canale got plenty of work in spring training as Donnelly had postseason knee surgery.

The secondary is a place where walk-ons have a chance to play, and Oliver expects to use several nonscholarshipped players in the Bama defensive backfield. They include junior safety Danny Davis (6-1, 205) and cornerbacks Mickey Conn (5-10, 175) and Willie Dickerson (5-11, 190), both juniors; and sophomores Michael Ausmus (5-9, 170, safety) and Tracy High (5-9, 175, cornerback).

The overall kicking game returns key components, notably Palmer as a return man, sophomore Michael Proctor (who was a freshman All-America pick) to place kick, and junior Bryne Diehl to punt. Although Diehl had some very good games, his overall average of 38.2 yards-per-punt needs improvement. The Tide also returns deep snapper Matthew Pine, but must replace Johnny Howard as snapper on field goals and extra point kicks and holder Jeff Wall. Pine was the leader in the short snaps for field goals and extra points. The holder must be a good athlete and most expected Chris Donnelly to get that job. However, with Donnelly recuperating this spring, the Tide worked with other players as holders.

The best appeared to be a former high school quarterback, punter Diehl. A walkon, Carl Albright, was also impressive as holder.

A prerequisite to a successful overall kicking game is good team speed, and Alabama has that.

Most work on the kicking game is done in the fall, but there was more kicking game practice this spring than in previous springs under Stallings. Additionally, the head coach has said that he expects to have one coach in charge of the overall kicking game this year. A guess would be that Danny Pearman, who coaches offensive tackles, will draw that assignment.

Spring training is not what it used to be. Really old timers can remember when it started and ended with the spring semester. Until a few years ago it was a month of intense physical work. Now it is limited to 20 days, only 15 of which can be full contact practices. And because of class schedules and, in Alabama's case, spring break, there is little continuity. Additionally, coaches consider a couple of days to be almost wasted days insofar as practice is concerned, and one of those is the public spring game.

Nevertheless, the A-Day Game is traditional. And this year it was more than that. It was revealing. Although offensive and defensive schemes are limited, this year's Crimson-White game showed individual talent. Stallings divided the teams in an attempt to make the squads as even as possible, so there was no number one offense or defense. A number one right tackle started next to a number two left guard and number two right end, for instance.

Although he has never quarterbacked a losing game in the fall for Alabama, Barker was the losing quarterback in the A-Day Game. Burgdorf quarterbacked the Crimson team to a 27-19 win over Barker's White squad. Burgdorf, who completed 14 of 16 passes for 121 yards, was voted winner of the "Dixie Howell Award" as the game's outstanding player. Barker completed 15 of 25 passes for 217 yards, including the game's longest play, a 65-yarder to Curt Brown for a touchdown. Barker also hit Brown on a 29-yard touchdown pass. Brown had seven catches for 158 yards. The game's most spectacular play was a 32-yard end-around by David Palmer, who picked up a key block from Burgdorf. The defense scored two touchdowns for the Crimson, Willie Gaston picking off a Barker pass and returning it 61 yards for a touchdown and safety Blair Canale picking up a fumble and running it back 62 yards. Fullback Tarrant Lynch had the game's only other touchdown, a one-yard plunge.

We Return In August

This is the final issue of 'BAMA until the August issue, which will be published and mailed in late July.

Michael Proctor hit on field goal tries of 38 and 34 yards.

Defensive end Elverett Brown was a unanimous choice as winner of the Dwight Stephenson Most Outstanding Lineman Award as he had seven tackles, three of them sacks and another behind the line of scrimmage for a total of 22 yards in losses for the Crimson team, and also caused a fumble.

For the past couple of decades, Alabama's coaching staff has selected players for various awards for their work in spring training, which has as its only reward other than the A-Day Game.

Although, as of this writing, those awards had not been announced, here is a guess at the winners:

Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter: Mario Morris.

Jerry Duncan I Like To Practice: No one, really.

Billy Neighbors Most Improved Defensive Lineman: Damiean Jeffries.

Woodrow Lowe Most Improved Linebacker: Will Brown.

Bobby Johns Most Improved Defensive Back: Willie Gaston.

Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman: Maurice Belser.

Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver: Rick Brown.

Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back: Brian Burgdorf.

Ozzie Newsome Most Improved Freshman: Kris Mangum.

Coach Bear Bryant Best Walk-On: Matthew Pine.

Sylvester Croom Commitment To Excellence: Tobie Sheils.

Lifter Of The Year: Jon Stevenson.

A Guess At Alabama's Football Depth Chart

Although Alabama does not announce a depth chart, a reasonable guess at how the Crimson Tide will line up at the beginning of fall drills can be made based on the results of spring training. This depth chart does not include any incoming freshmen, nor does it include two 1992 signees, defensive end Kendrick Burton and wide receiver Toderick Malone, who were academically ineligible a year ago. It also does not include every player on the squad, only those who appeared at the end of spring training to be a factor on the depth chart this fall. Naturally, this depth chart is subject to considerable change when the squad returns to practice in August. Returning starters from 1992 are in CAPITAL LETTERS.

OFFENSE

Split End–KEVIN LEE, Curt Brown, Roman Colburn
Left Tackle–MATT HAMMOND, Joey Harville, Kareem McNeal
Left Guard–John Clay, Maurice Belser, Jeremy Pennington
Center–TOBIE SHEILS, Dennis Deason, John Causey, Chad Gladden
Right Guard–JON STEVENSON, William Barger, Napoleon Folks
Right Tackle–ROOSEVELT PATTERSON, Shannon Brown, Pete DiMario, Rory Segrest
Tight End–Kris Mangum, Tony Johnson
Quarterback–JAY BARKER, Brian Burgdorf, Chad Key, Josh Niblett
Fullback–Tarrant Lynch, Eric Turner, Marcus Moring, Harold Swopes
Halfback–Chris Anderson, Sherman Williams
Flanker–DAVID PALMER, Marcel West, Rick Brown, Lorenzo Cole

DEFENSE

Left Linebacker–André Royal, Victor Lockett, Darrell Blackburn
Left End–Elverett Brown, Ozell Powell, Bryan Thornton
Nose Tackle–JAMES GREGORY, Laron White, Tim Barnett
Right End–Jeremy Nunley, Damiean Jeffries, Kelvin Moore, Vann Bodden
Right Linebacker–LEMANSKI HALL, Will Brown, John Tanks
Strong Linebacker–MICHAEL ROGERS, Jeff Torrence, Johnny Hutt
Weak Linebacker–Mario Morris, John Walters, Lamont Floyd, Jeff Foshee
Left Cornerback–ANTONIO LANGHAM, Mickey Conn
Right Cornerback–Tommy Johnson, Willie Gaston, Willie Dickerson
Strong Safety–SAM SHADE, Danny Davis
Safety–CHRIS DONNELLY, Blair Canale, Michael Ausmus

KICKING

Placekicker–MICHAEL PROCTOR, Matt Wethington, Wade Roe
Long Snapper–MATTHEW PINE
Holder–Bryne Diehl, Carl Albright
Punter–BRYNE DIEHL, J.J. Adams
Short Snapper–Matthew Pine, Chester Lewis

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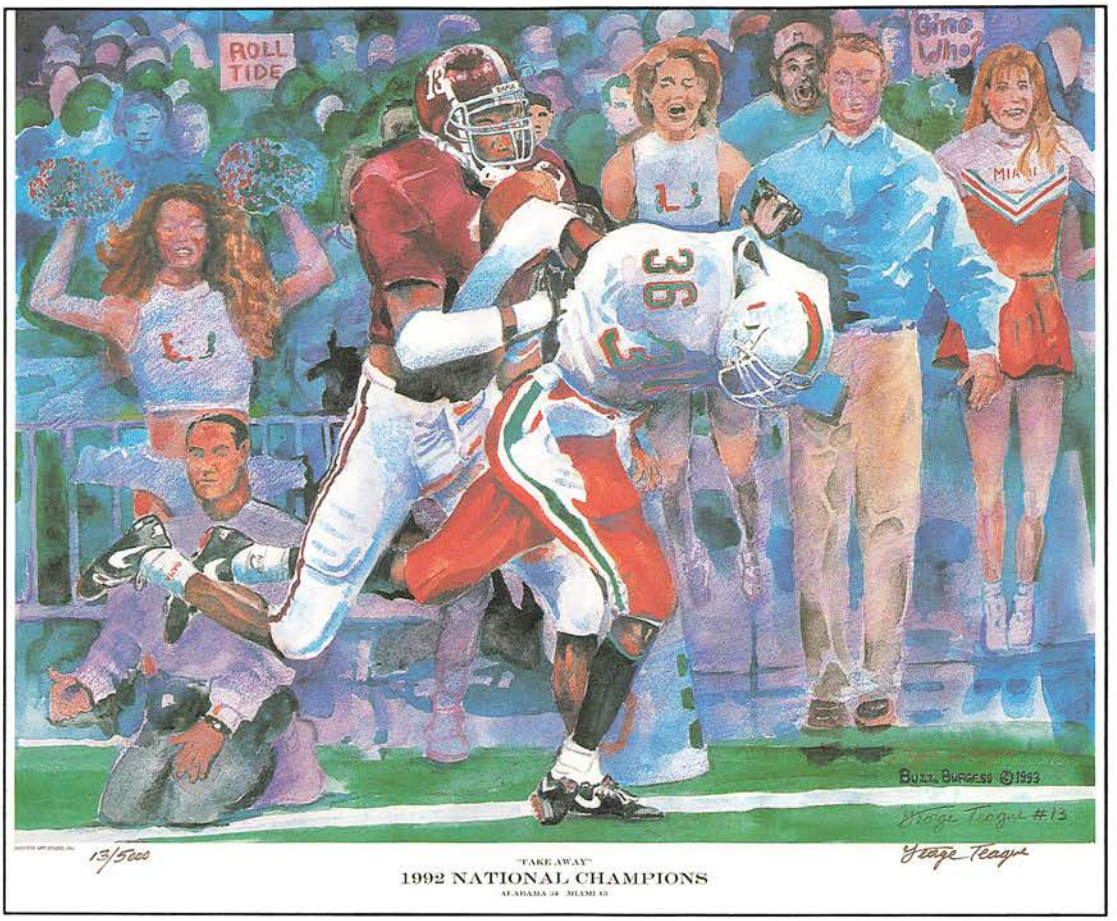

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Sherman Williams:

He Hopes To Shake Things Up

by Tommy Deas

Junior running back has skills and desire to be another top Tide performer

Doctors were not consulted when Sherman Williams came down with the shakes.

University of Alabama football coaches quickly diagnosed the cause when the then-sophomore tailback began shaking from helmet to toe like a French Quarter burlesque queen in a game against Tulane last season. The shaking was just a symptom. The cause, a simple case of touchdown-itis.

Ask the Mobile native, who set state rushing records with more than 3,000 career yards in winning a state championship at Blount High, about his now-trademark celebration shake and a smile will cross his face.

"It started at the Tulane game last year," he said. "I call it the shake. I danced in high school in the end zone a couple of times.

"When I got in the end zone I just did something. I never practiced it. It just came. The players were all laughing, having a good time, we were winning, it just put a little more excitement into the game, I think."

Before Williams is accused of taunting, he wants it known that his post-touchdown actions are not aimed at opponents.

"I don't use it as a taunt toward the other team," he said. "I don't want people to get the idea that's what it is. It's my personal celebration, not to put the other team down or anything like that.

"If the coaches told me not to do it, I wouldn't do it."

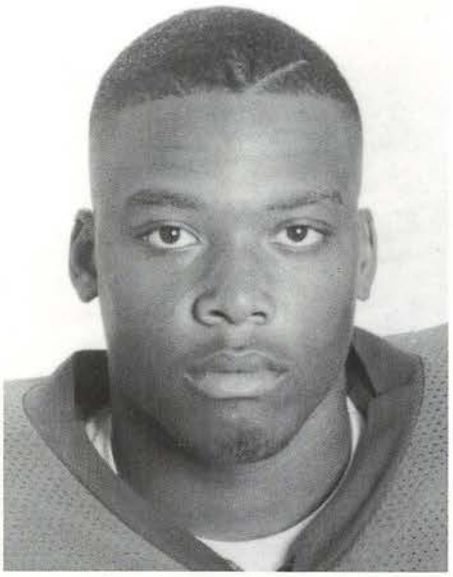
It was largely the Alabama coaching staff which won out in recruiting efforts that landed Williams over his other top choices, Auburn and LSU.

"I liked Coach (running backs coach Larry) Kirksey, the attitude he had," Williams said. "He wasn't promising anything, just that they'd give me a chance. They did that at the other schools, promise this and promise that.

"Coach Kirksey told me like it was."

The players already at Alabama when Williams visited helped convince Williams he was making the right choice.

"I liked the way the team stuck together like family, like my high school team," he said. "It carried over from high school to here, the way we all do things together off the field, even in the off-season."



Sherman Williams

While he has yet to amass even a 300-yard rushing season, Williams enters his junior year with the Alabama Crimson Tide poised to place his name alongside the likes of Siran Stacy, Bobby Humphrey, Kerry Goode and others in Bama's recent line of succession at tailback.

Said Williams, "I always thought of Alabama as a running back school, a better school for running backs."

Williams exited the 1993 spring practice period rated alongside senior Chris Anderson at number one on the tailback depth chart. It speaks volumes about his talent that Williams can be seen as the team's back of the future after finishing only fourth among Tide rushers in last year's national championship season.

"Chris has experience and so does Sherman," Kirksey said near the end of spring practice. "They're together (on the depth chart) right now. Sherman's really worked hard in the off-season. He's done a great job for us getting himself in shape and he's had a great spring.

"He understands the system and he knows we're expecting great things from him. Sherman knows he'll have to do his share, and that's one of the reasons I'm expecting big things from him.

"He has that elusive speed. You're not going to catch him once he gets by you. He has the strength and the speed and all the things a great running back needs."

As a sophomore, the powerfully-built 5-10, 190-pounder was usually third in the running backs rotation behind then-senior Derrick Lassic and Anderson. He ran for 299 yards on 64 carries, good for 4.5 yards per rush, and scored eight touchdowns. His best game came against LSU, when Williams rushed for 69 yards on 10 carries with a pair of scores.

In Alabama's Sugar Bowl victory over Miami for the national championship, Williams carried seven times for 18 net yards with one touchdown and returned one kickoff 20 yards.

After playing in nine games and rushing just 12 times for 108 yards and a pair of touchdowns as a freshman, Williams considered his sophomore effort a big improvement.

"My freshman year I came in at five on the (depth) charts and I didn't have a problem with it," Williams said. "The coaches decided not to redshirt me so I went along with the coaches. I never question a coach's decision. They know what's best and they decided not to redshirt me.

"I went on and did the best I could and made the most I could out of it and I played all right for a freshman to score two touchdowns."

Things improved last season. Even if he hadn't posted great totals, Williams had caught his coaches' eyes with his nine-yards-per-carry average as a freshman.

"I had to be patient because my time was coming," he said. "We kept rotating pretty good last year. I played more than I thought I would in some games.

"Sometimes I played second, sometimes Chris played second. Both of us are coming out this year trying to get the position, so both of us are working really hard."

Williams welcomes the competition on the practice field. He dispels any doubts about problems that could arise from two teammates competing for the same starting position.

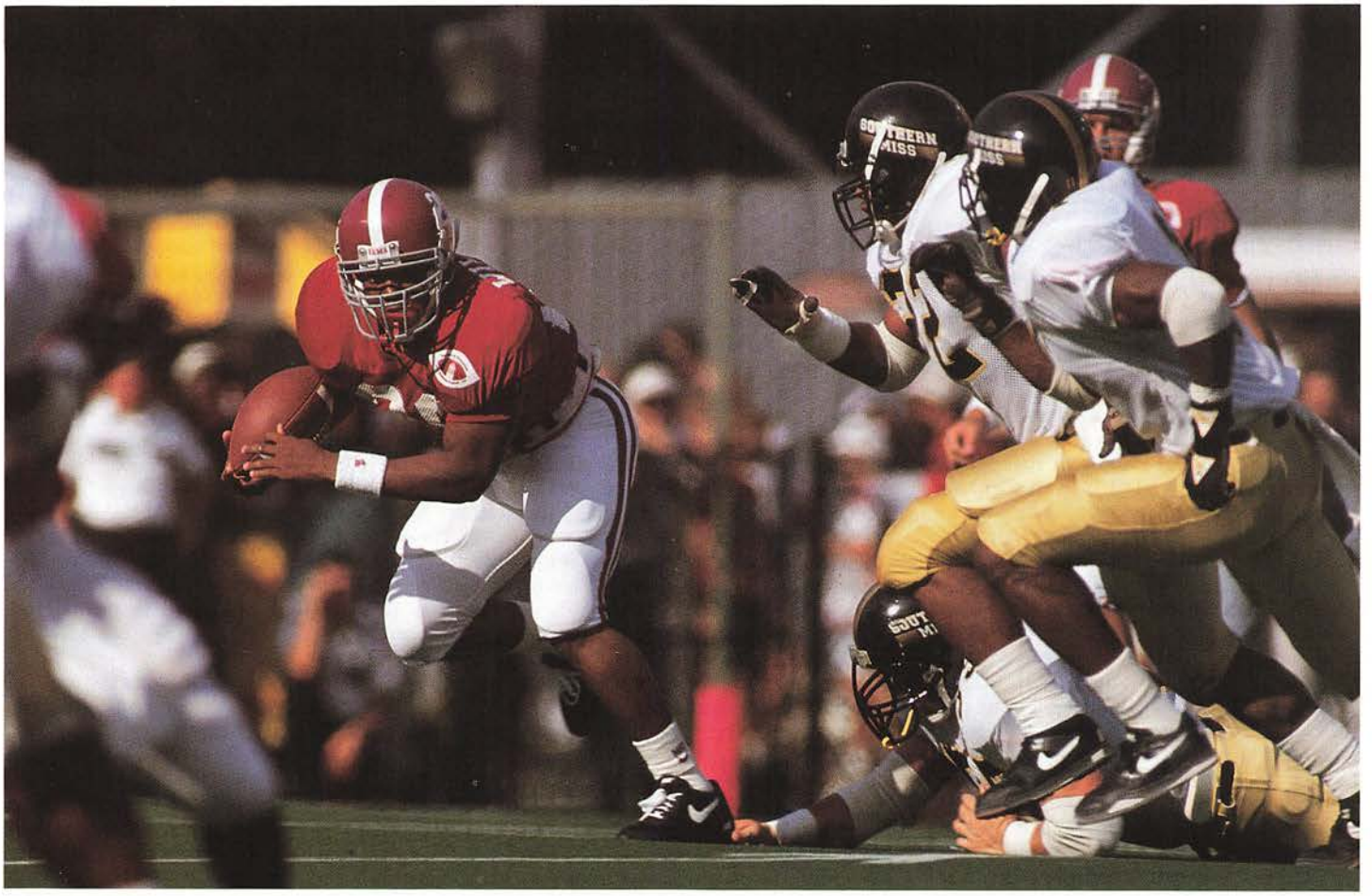
"We both know we're going to play," Williams said. "We're both going out to accomplish goals we've set for ourselves. In the past, there were rumors of a lot of jealousy going around about the running backs, but Chris and I won't have that problem.

"We're both going to compete. I'm going to push him and he's going to push me and we're going to push each other and that will make us both better. If I wasn't there to push him, he wouldn't be as good as he is, and if he wasn't here I wouldn't be pushed as hard."

Even while competing with Anderson, Williams has an appreciation for his teammate's style.

"He does a good job getting outside and getting upfield," Williams said. "He does a good job with his speed in the open field getting away from people.

"Me, I like to avoid people more than trying to go over them. I'd rather throw a



Sherman Williams doesn't try to run over opposing defensive players, but rather hopes to use his elusiveness to avoid the tackle. He has good moves and good speed and is expected to carry much of the running load for Alabama this fall.

Barry Fikes Photo

move here, throw a move there, then go, instead of getting tackled trying to go over them. I'd rather make them miss."

As his Crimson Tide teammates, Williams is focused on team goals of repeating Southeastern Conference and national championships. He realizes he will have to contribute more in what Alabama coaches project as a two-man running back rotation with Anderson.

"I want every game to be a 100-yard game," he said. "This year, I'd like to rush for 100 yards and have 150 all-purpose yards every game.

"I think I've accomplished a lot this spring, pass blocking and pass routes. We're trying to involve the backs more in the passing game and I think that I can contribute catching the ball out of the backfield.

"I've always been a team player. As long as we win as a team, the personal will come as long as I contribute in any kind of way."

Improving some intangibles will also be a key.

Said Williams, "I have to concentrate more on what I'm doing while I'm on the field. That's the most important thing. I don't concentrate as much as I should on the field even though I give 100 percent effort every play.

"I've got to overcome the mental part of the game. The crowd is not the problem. I never hear the crowd too much as it is. I'm just trying too hard, thinking about the play before the play happens, trying too hard and not letting it come to me."

For the third straight season, Alabama's offensive coaches and players have talked about improving the passing game. Alabama was chided for its "one-dimensional" ground-oriented offense before winning the national championship, but that same offense has produced a 24-1 record over the last two seasons.

Williams seems to have a clear grasp of what Alabama's offense is trying to accomplish and how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together.

"The offensive line is what carried us through the season last year," he said. "They did a great job blocking. We didn't have much of a passing game, but we kept fresh backs in the game and the line did its job blocking.

"The holes opened up and we took advantage. We didn't have the turnovers, and turnovers were the biggest key to our season. The defense got turnovers and we didn't have the turnovers on offense.

"That's one of the things they stress most–turnovers–that and running the ball. That's the main things, that and winning the football game."

Williams is satisfied with Alabama's offensive philosophy.

"We take pride in running the football," he said, "doing it the old-fashioned way. That's the type team Alabama's had over the years, so it's kind of like a tradition to run the football.

"We think that's the best way. As long as we think we can run the ball, we're going to keep running it."

If Williams has his way, that's the way Alabama will continue to do things. And if he plays the kind of role he wants to, there could be a whole lotta shakin' going on this fall.

Matt Hammond:

Goal Is To Help Lead Bama To Title

by Donald F. Staffo

Offensive tackle may set Crimson Tide record of 50 consecutive starts

The Alabama football team's defense was given most of the credit over the past couple of years, and deservingly so. Alabama went 11-1 (including a Blockbuster Bowl win over Colorado) in 1991, and then last year the Crimson Tide won the national championship, going 13-0 including a defeat of previously-ranked number one Miami in the Sugar Bowl and a win over defending Southeastern Conference champion Florida in the inaugural SEC Championship game. And during this period of great success Bama's offensive line has been considered a team weakness. Now as the Crimson Tide prepares for the 1993 season and defense of its various titles, the offensive line is looked at as a team strength.

"Last year our defense was our strength, but we lost some ingredients over there," said Danny Pearman, who coaches Bama offensive tackles. "But throughout the year the offensive line kept getting better. Now we have to keep going from there."

One of the mainstays of the offensive line the past three years is Matt Hammond, who has started 37 straight games at left tackle. "The media was on us pretty good," Hammond said. "They gave us a hard time. Two years ago we were a very young offensive line. At one point I had one year of experience and was a sophomore and I was the most experienced player in the offensive line.

"The coaches still expected a lot out of us, but it takes a while to adjust to each other and play at this level. We were just lacking in experience and confidence, but as the season went along we began to jell."

The team took off, and the once-green and much-maligned offensive line weathered the criticism. The line now returns everyone except George Wilson, the courageous and inspirational left guard. Hammond is expected to be re-joined in the starting offensive line by senior right tackle Roosevelt Patterson, who started last year and had his best game in the final game; junior right guard Jon Stevenson, an offensive line starter in both his freshman and sophomore seasons; and All-SEC center Tobie Sheils, an upcoming senior. Wilson's job is expected to go either to senior John Clay or, possibly, to sophomore Maurice Belser or redshirt freshman Jeremy Pennington. No wonder this group is expected to pull its share of the load, and more.

"Coach (Gene) Stallings told us that the defense lost a lot and that he expects us to be the strength of the team next season," Hammond said. "If you just look at the depth chart, you can see that we've got more experience than at the other positions, so we've got to carry the load. I think you win it up front, and, one way or another, we're going to be expected to get the job done."

Jim Fuller, who coaches Bama's guards and centers, is confident regarding the starters in the trenches. He echoes the head coach in saying depth is the concern. "We all know what the starters can do, so this spring we concentrated on getting the other guys ready," he said. "Our concern was in bringing the younger guys around."

Hammond, 6-3 and 266, acknowledges that he will be expected to be a leader of the 1993 Crimson Tide offensive line. "Experience is something that you can only get one way, and that's by playing," he said. "I've started for three years, so I've kind of been placed in a position where I've got to be a leader on the team. I've got to take a more active role in trying to lead the offensive line."

Pearman agrees. "Matt has been in a lot of ball games and he has to provide leadership for our young players on and off the field," Pearman said. "Matt gets along well with his teammates. He's quiet and he speaks more with his actions than with his words."

That probably won't change a lot. "I'm going to stay within my personality," Hammond said. "I'm not a vocal kind of guy. I've been around some guys who tried to lead by doing a lot of talking, but if they didn't do it on the field, it didn't mean much. A leader has got to do it on the field."

Beyond being battle-tested, Hammond possesses other attributes of leadership. An Academic All-SEC performer in 1991, he has already earned his degree in statistics and is currently in graduate school with the goal of obtaining his MBA. And his intelligence isn't limited to the classroom. He's football savvy.

"Matt has a direct plan for himself as a football player and then after football," Pearman said. "His biggest strength is that he is smart. He's a good player because he realizes what his abilities and liabilities are and he makes the most of everything he's got. Matt has played a lot of downs and knows what to expect and what to do. He studies his opponent, finds weaknesses, and then exploits them. He's a very sound player, a finesse player rather than an overpowering player."

Hammond, who runs a respectable 4.95 40-yard dash, believes that he needs to be stronger in his senior season. He wants to increase his 400-pound bench press and his 600-pound squat. He also said that he and the other offensive linemen need to get better at blocking, both pass blocking and run blocking. "I've got to get better in those areas, like everyone else in the offensive line," he said. "At this level you've got to constantly improve; otherwise, you're going to get behind. You're never to the point that you're good enough. You have to keep working at it.

"As a team we've got to throw the ball a little better, and that means, in part, that we've got to block better. We got kind of one-dimensional last year."

A native of Fort Payne, Hammond was a two-way performer and captain in high school, where he earned all-state honors and was designated the seventh best college football prospect in the Sweet 16 rankings of the *Tuscaloosa News*. He also starred in basketball, leading Fort Payne in scoring and rebounding en route to earning all-area honors.

Hammond selected Alabama over Auburn and Vanderbilt, but it really wasn't a difficult decision. "I grew up with SEC championships and national championships," he said. "Bear Bryant; that's what football was to me."

He was redshirted in his first year, 1989, and since the season-opener the following season he has been a fixture in the offensive line. He was named *Football News* Freshman All-America and to the All-SEC Freshman team. Although he is appreciative of those recognitions, he keeps them in perspective. "That was very nice," he said, "but I think that because so few people in this league start as freshman that the honor is really more for playing than for ability." Although he would like to make an all-star team in his senior year, he said, "I'm more concerned with team goals than I am with individual honors.

"What I'm most interested in next season is winning a bunch of games, winning the SEC, and putting ourselves in a position to play for another national championship."

As virtually every other college starting

Matt Hammond believes that he and every other member of the Alabama offensive line has to improve in blocking. Hammond doesn't believe a football player stands still. He is either getting better or going backwards. Hammond wants to get better for his final season.
Barry Fikes Photo

football player, Hammond would relish the opportunity to play professional football. But he knows it's a longshot. "Playing pro football is in the back of my mind, but not something I'm counting on," he said. "If I get the opportunity I'll consider it. If I don't, I'll get a job in the business area. There are a lot of different things I can do with my degree."

In the meantime, he's got the possibility of starting in 50 Alabama football games, almost certainly a Crimson Tide record.

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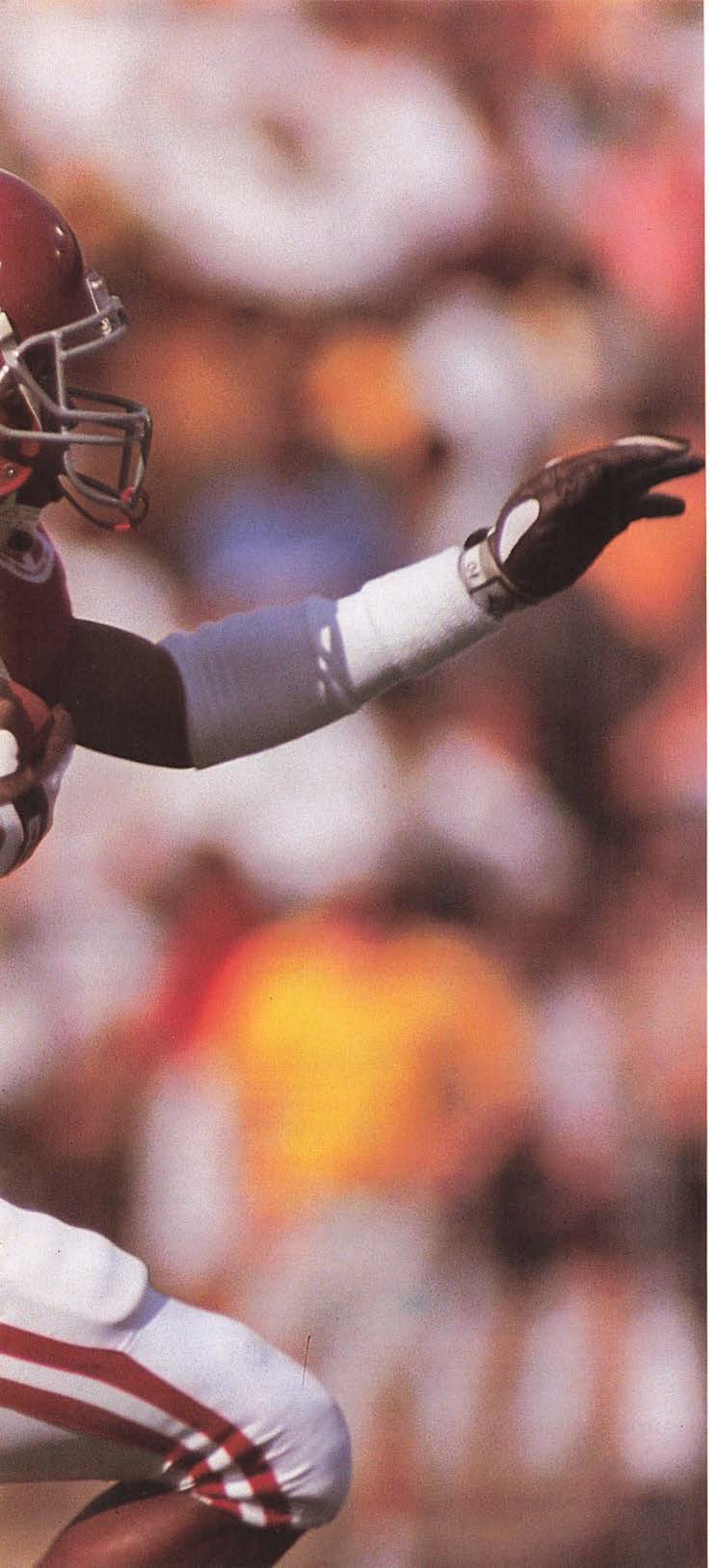


Tommy Johnson:

Sugar Bowl Background A Good One

by John Barnes

Junior has high hopes for another national title, this one as a starter

It has been said that the best players rise to the occasion in the biggest games. Alabama's Tommy Johnson is living proof. Bama defensive guru and secondary coach Bill Oliver believes Johnson's stellar performance in the Sugar Bowl is a mere prelude to what Tide fans can expect from the talented cornerback the next two years. "Tommy is one of the best all-around athletes on our team," said Oliver. "Not only does he possess tremendous ability and speed, but he prepares well for each game and does exactly what we ask of him."

The diminutive Johnson (5-10, 175) is small in stature, but make no mistake, he plays big. As a true freshman, he intercepted a pass late in the game versus Tulane and returned it 92 yards for a touchdown. "That was the kind of play you dream about," said the upcoming junior from Niceville, Florida. "It came at a really good time for me. I made a number of mistakes earlier in the year and it was a good confidence builder for me."

Confident indeed. In Johnson's two years in a Crimson Tide uniform, Bama has posted an astounding 24-1 record. "It's hard to lose when you don't know how," he said. "I see a lot of intensity on the field this spring. We all know how tough it's going to be next season, but I think we're up to the task. I think we'll repeat as national champions."

Wherever Johnson goes, winning seems to follow. As a prep star at Niceville High

Tommy Johnson had most of his big moments on defense for Alabama as a backup cornerback in 1992. However, he also had one big offensive moment, catching a pass for a touchdown from punt formation to get Bama started on a 17-10 win over Southern Mississippi.

Barry Fikes Photo

School, he led his team to a 17-3 record his junior and senior years. A two-way starter at split end, defensive back and occasionally quarterback, Johnson had 35 receptions for 450 yards and 325 yards rushing his senior year. He also had 25 career interceptions while earning all-state honors for three straight years, in addition to honorable mention *USA Today* All-America.

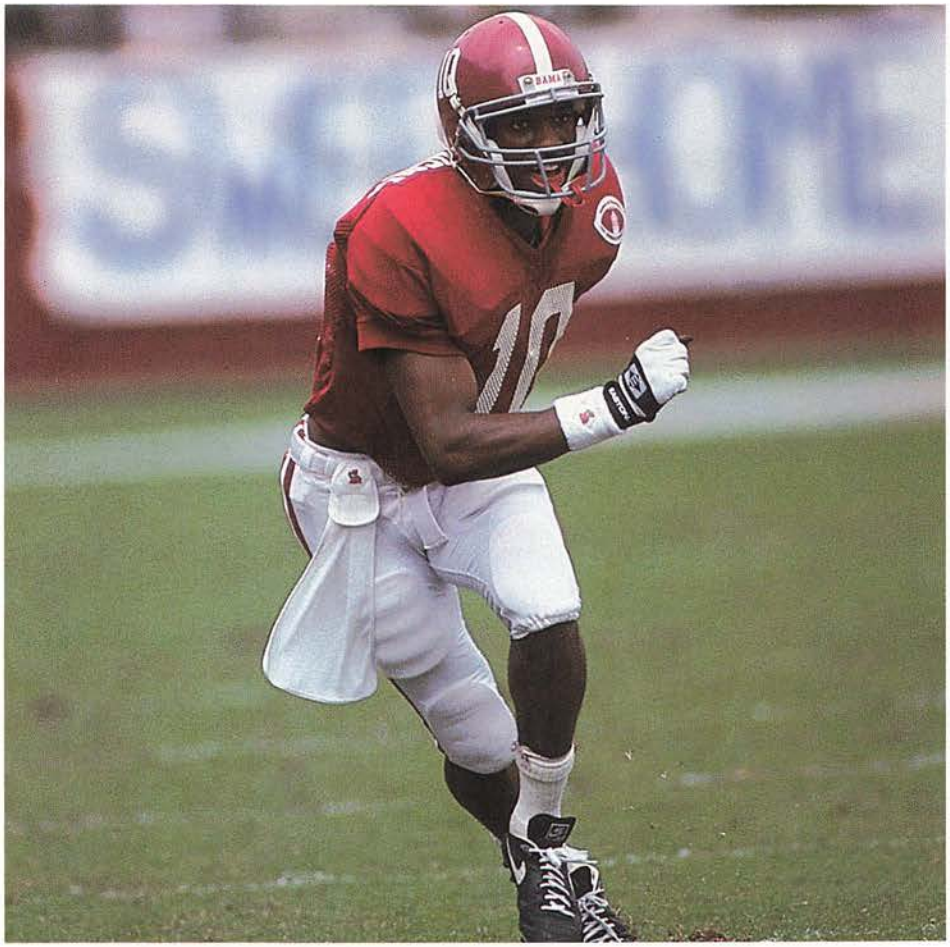
"When Tommy was still in high-school, I went down to the Northwest Florida Sports Banquet," said Oliver. "There must have been two thousand people there and everyone seemed to be talking about Tommy Johnson. Now I see why. Realistically, Tommy could have been a very good receiver for us, but not everyone can be a receiver. We felt like his speed and ability would really pay off for us in the defensive backfield." It has.

Johnson's prep career caught not only the attention of Oliver and receivers coach Woody McCorvey, who recruits northwest Florida, but a number of other big-time programs as well. After visits to tradition-rich schools such as Nebraska and Penn State, Johnson ultimately decided on Alabama because "it felt like home and I knew I could just be myself."

With two varsity letters under his belt, as well as a national championship and a spot on the *Football News* All-Bowl Team for his performance in the Sugar Bowl, Johnson looks forward to coming into his own as a starter and making another run at the national championship. With 1992 starter George Teague moving on, Johnson looks to be the starter at right cornerback. "If Tommy stays healthy, the sky is the limit for him," said Oliver. "He knows he's the starter at right corner but he hasn't slacked up in preparation or work ethic. He's had some ankle problems in the past, but it doesn't seem to bother him any more. I look for him to be a big part of our defense."

Alabama's 1992 campaign was certainly one to remember for fans and players alike. Johnson is no exception. "Last year was great," he said. "We accomplished every team goal we set for ourselves and that's very rare in sports. You may not believe this, but we knew during (1992) spring practice we were going to win the national championship. We all get along so well and have such great team unity, we knew no one would beat us unless we beat ourselves. Even with all the negative press we got early in the year, we knew in our hearts we had the talent to go undefeated."

If Johnson was certain of Bama's ultimate success, a number of others were not. The Tide's lack of offensive punch early in the season led to considerable doubt as to Alabama's ability to score on top-notch defenses. "What people don't realize is that we faced some pretty good defenses early in the year," said Johnson.



Tommy Johnson has had only one starting assignment in his first two years as an Alabama defensive back, the last game the Crimson Tide played as Bama opened the Sugar Bowl contest with six defensive backs. He had an exceptional performance as Alabama defeated Miami, 34-13, to win the national championship.

Barry Fikes Photo

"Louisiana Tech was probably the best defense we faced all year. I suspect most of those people who were so critical of us never played a down of football."

It was during this period that Johnson made what turned out to be Bama's longest scoring play of the year. Against Southern Mississippi, with the Tide in punt formation, Johnson lined up wide right with no defender in sight. Punter Bryne Diehl lofted a pass to Johnson, who took the ball for 73 yards and the winning touchdown. "That was a really weird play," he said. "I still can't believe no one guarded me. The coaches were screaming and hollering from the sideline. I looked up and there was the football. Bryne threw me a nice pass and I just did what came natural." The play went in the record books as the Southeastern Conference's third longest pass play of 1992.

As the season continued, Johnson became more and more convinced that Alabama was a very good football team. "Things just seemed to go right for us," he said. "I guess it was in the Tulane game when I realized we had something special. We did not play a good first half. At halftime, we had a players-only meeting and decided that this half of football would make or break our season. We came out and played what I think was our best half of football all season. We carried it over into the Tennessee game and never looked back from there."

Following Bama's third straight victory over Auburn, Johnson and Bama prepared to face the Florida Gators in the inaugural SEC Championship game. "That was a strange game. People said that Alabama didn't want to play. They said we played not to lose rather than to win. That may have been true, but we did what we had to do to win the football game. We had a lot of pressure on us. I was probably more nervous during that game than I ever have been. The defense knew we had to do something. Antonio (Langham) said, "If it

is to be, it might as well be me.' I think that sums up our effort for the whole year."

In the Sugar Bowl, Johnson's first game as a starter, he turned in a performance that will go down in the annals of Alabama football as one of the finest-ever in a bowl game. Johnson's performance could have, and many say should have, earned him most valuable player honors. The statistics speak for themselves. An interception that led to a touchdown, a caused fumble, a sack, five broken up passes and six tackles. "Tommy did just a great job of preparing for that game," said Oliver. "His interception and the strip on Lamar Thomas that killed their drive were both just tremendous reads on his part."

"It was a great experience," said Johnson of Bama's 34-13 dismantling of Miami. "I guess you could say I was 'in a zone' during that game. From the time we arrived in New Orleans until we ran on the field for warmups, I had no doubt we would win the football game. While the Miami players were running their mouths and down-talking Alabama, we were trying to keep a low profile and take care of the task at hand. The coaches told us that they were good on paper, but that they could be beaten."

Among the factors that led to Bama's surprising, dominating victory, at least according to Johnson, was the crowd. "I can't say enough about the Alabama fans and the crowd at the Superdome. When we were leaving the hotel to go to the game, people were going absolutely crazy. By the time we got to the 'dome, we were so pumped up there was no way we were going to lose. When we ran on the field for warmups, I just got chill bumps. I've never heard anything like that crowd."

When describing his numerous heroics in the game, Johnson is quite humble. "I would like to think that my good play in the game is the result of good preparation and being surrounded by good people," he said. "I think a lot of it was just being in the right place at the right time. Our defensive scheme in that game gave everybody a chance to make a contribution. I am kind of proud of my interception. It was a simple possession play that they run from time to time, just a dump-off to Kevin Williams in the flat. I thought I made a pretty good read on it."

According to Oliver, it was more than just a "pretty good" read. "That play really started the ball rolling for us," Oliver said. "You look at that play and the caused fumble in the first half and it really caused a 10- to 14-point swing in favor of Alabama. Had Tommy not caused that fumble, Miami might have gone down and scored to take the lead in the first half. That would have changed the whole complexion of the game."

Can Bama fans look forward to more defensive game plans like Bama used in the Sugar Bowl? "Absolutely not," said Oliver. "That was just one of the many schemes we have in our library. You don't make a living in college football by doing that. We'll continue to occasionally run an 11-man front, but nothing like we did in the bowl game. (Miami quarterback) Gino Torretta was the main reason we pulled that scheme from our library."

Conventional football wisdom suggests there is no harder position on the football field than cornerback. Unfortunately for Johnson and Oliver, it just got tougher. A new NCAA rule will require that the hash marks in college football be moved in three yards, eight inches from both sidelines. The NCAA Rules Committee has expressed a desire for a more free-wheeling, wide-open game. The hash marks being closer to the middle of the field means there is less of a short side of the field, the side of the field where the sidelines boundary means the defensive player has less field to cover.

Needless to say, neither Oliver nor Johnson is pleased with the decision. "That rule is absolutely absurd," said Oliver. "It reminds me of when they legalized holding in the '70s. [Editor's note: Actually, the rules change did not legalize holding, but did legalize the use of hands by offensive players in blocking.] I'll never forget Coach Bryant walking into my office and saying, 'Well, Brother, they just took the fun out of football.' This rule change will have just as big of an impact on the game. What you'll see is colleges going to more of a pro-style defense which I think is dull."

Whether or not this impending rule change will have the impact on the game Oliver claims it will remains to be seen. Johnson is concerned, but not overly so. "It'll make a difference in the area I'll have to cover, but at the same time, it could prepare me better for a possible career in the pros. Either way, we still have to go out and play. The hash marks will be the same for other teams, also."

As Johnson prepares for the 1993 season, his first as a full-time starter, he sees great things on the horizon for Alabama football. "I think we'll be better than last year and that's kind of scary," he said. "I have all the confidence in the world in our coaches and players. God willing, we'll be right there again next January."

What could the talented junior possibly do for an encore after his phenomenal performance in the Sugar Bowl? "I'm not that interested in individual recognition," said Johnson. "I'll take it if it comes, but I would rather win another national championship."

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Jim Goostree:

Winning Made It All Worthwhile

by Kirk McNair

Legendary Tide trainer, administrator steps down after 35-year career

It is hard to imagine the Alabama athletics department without Jim Goostree. But after a career of over 35 years of service, Goostree–the only man ever to hold the title of executive athletics director at The University–has begun the process of settling into retirement.

For a quarter of a century the Goostree mark was made on the athletes; for the past decade it has been put on the physical plant and the bank account. In all aspects it was superior.

The public knew Goostree primarily as the Crimson Tide football trainer, thousands watching as he made the occasional distinctive waddle to a fallen Bama player during Alabama football games in the Paul Bryant era. Under succeeding athletics directors–Ray Perkins, Steve Sloan and Hootie Ingram–Goostree was a key administrator as director of numerous construction projects and as director of the extraordinarily successful Tide Pride donor program.

Goostree said he thinks of himself as neither retired trainer nor retired administrator, but "as a retired all-around employee of the department."

The greatest shakeup in Alabama athletics department history came in late 1957 when Bryant was called back home. Bryant, who had played at Alabama in the 1930s, coached as an assistant at Alabama and Vanderbilt prior to World War II, then been head coach at Maryland, Kentucky and Texas A&M, was regarded as the one man who could revive the Bama football program that had fallen on hard times. When he arrived following the 1957 football season there was a general house-cleaning. Bryant replaced not only J.B. Whitworth as head football coach, but also Hank Crisp as director of athletics. Only three men were kept from those staffs–Business Manager B. W. Whittington, Sports Information Director Finus Gaston, and Goostree, who had joined the staff as trainer in the summer of 1957.

Goostree had brief job interviews and no signed contracts in his 35-year tenure at Alabama. His first interview was with Crisp. "It was a two Lucky interview," Goostree said. "Coach Crisp smoked Lucky Strike cigarettes. We met in the breezeway at the old athletics department building and he lit a cigarette. During the interview he lit another one. By the time he finished the second one I had the job."

Jim Goostree plans to spend time on the golf course and with his family after ending an extraordinary 35-year career with Alabama athletics.

Barry Fikes Photo

When Bryant returned, Goostree wasn't on campus to meet him. "I was with the basketball team on a road trip," Goostree said. When he returned, he said, "I met Coach Bryant walking down the hall and said, 'Don't we need to have a talk?' He said we did and took me into his office. I

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thought we'd sit down and talk, but he just sat on the corner of his desk and told me that if at the end of spring training he liked me and I liked him, I had a job. I told him that I already had half of that licked and that I needed to get out of there and go to work on the other 50 per cent, and turned and walked out."

Goostree would have thousands of other conversations with Bryant over the next quarter of a century, a majority of them not pleasant by the nature of Goostree's job. "I always felt I never carried him any good news," Goostree said. "Most of our conversations were about boys we felt couldn't participate either in practice or games because of injury or illness. Fortunately, as he became more confident and as the level of talent rose, he was more able to accept that some players would not be available."

It is the relationship with the players that Goostree missed most when he moved into administration and which he will most often think about when he looks back on his career. "I think about gutsy performances by boys who played when they were hurt," Goostree said. "A Tommy Brooker kicking a winning field goal against Auburn when his knee was practically locked up. A Joe Namath going out time and again on bad knees to do whatever it took to win. And many, many others."

One of the most memorable miracle cures by Goostree and his staff, including his longtime assistant Sang Lyda, was that of Johnny Musso's sprained toe. Alabama was facing one of the most monumental games in Crimson Tide history in 1971, Alabama's 10-0 team against Auburn's 9-0 squad led by Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Pat Sullivan. Two weeks before the game Musso couldn't walk. A week before the game Goostree "invented" a special device for Musso to wear in his shoe. Throughout the week Musso tried to jog in the hallway outside the training room of Memorial (now Coleman) Coliseum. Only moments before the Tide was to take the field against Auburn did Bryant elect to start Musso. Musso responded with 33 carries for 167 yards and two touchdowns and Bama romped, 31-7.

As is usually the case in discussion of athletics, Goostree is generous in giving credit to others. "In the case of Johnny, we were dealing with a mature, stable individual who could play without a lot of practice and would give all he could. Even though he was hurt, he was not only functional, in the heat of battle he was able to do things that had a tremendous impact on the outcome."

When Goostree thinks of injured players he also thinks of those like Mike Fracchia, the talented running back of the early 1960s who never fully recovered from a knee injury.

But mostly he thinks of the great ones on the field or on the court, the Joe Namaths and Ozzie Newsomes and Leon Douglasses. He considers Namath the most gifted athlete ever at Alabama, a man who was a star in football and could have starred in a number of other sports. "He was the first person I ever saw do a reverse two-handed dunk with a basketball," Goostree said.

Although Goostree was an informal advisor and administrator under Bryant, he became a full-time administrator under Perkins, a move Goostree wanted to make. "I had always had an interest in administration," he said. "Frankly, I thought it was a privilege to have the opportunity to move into another area of athletics, and I was ready to do it. I'm very indebted to Ray and to Steve Sloan for giving me the opportunity to move to other areas in intercollegiate athletics."

> "Winning makes the difference. If you work in athletics, I don't believe you can tolerate losing. I know I wouldn't have been in it long without winning. Winning is important to me."

And so the miles and miles of tape were left behind and Goostree entered the world of blueprints and contracts overseeing dozens of projects and millions of dollars worth of improvements. Also left behind was daily contact with the athletes, Goostree's one regret about the move to administration.

But he tackled his new job with the same intensity as he had his job as trainer, in part because of training he had received under Bryant and, before that, under Tennessee's legendary football coach, General Bob Neyland. Goostree earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Tennessee, working as an assistant trainer under still another legend, Mickey O'Brien. Goostree saw similarities in Bryant and Neyland, similarities he considered not coincidental. "I know Coach Bryant had great admiration for General Neyland, and they became closer after General Neyland retired," Goostree said. "You could see, particularly, in the kicking game the influence of General Neyland on Coach Bryant. And you could also see it in Coach Bryant's militaristic preparation, of having a plan in place and then giving that plan minute attention every day to be successful. Coach Bryant also gave his staff a great deal of leeway to teach. He would teach us to teach the players and to instill in them the will to win and the understanding that things done the right way resulted in winning, and winning in a big way.

"And it resulted in the greatest era in Alabama football. Not the only great era, but the greatest."

Goostree was the overseer of dozens of physical plant projects completed at a cost of millions of dollars. These included the Bryant-Denny Stadium expansion and renovation, the football building, the indoor practice facility, extensive work at Bryant Hall (the athletics dormitory), extensive renovation of Coleman Coliseum, new lights and renovation of the Thomas Field football practice facility, the new Sewell-Thomas Baseball Stadium, renovation, and resurfacing of the Sam Bailey Track and Field Stadium.

When Ingram took over as director of athletics in 1989, Goostree suggested that Bobby Rice, a civil engineer with The University, be brought in to the athletics department to oversee facilities, which was done. And Goostree took over Tide Pride.

In its first three years, Tide Pride has raised a little over $15 million. Three years later the total is about $40 million.

"I considered my role to be one of maintaining a good relationship with our Tide Pride donors and helping increase funds through an expansion of the program," Goostree said. "I think we were successful in that we have developed the most dollars for the least dollars. And there is no question that the success we have had under Coach (Gene) Stallings is in great part responsible for the success of Tide Pride."

The winning made it worthwhile. "It's been a lot of fun," Goostree said of his 35 years at The University. "Winning makes the difference. If you work in athletics, I don't believe you can tolerate losing. I know I wouldn't have been in it long without winning. Winning is important to me."

Goostree was honored at this year's A-Day Game, including being given the keys to a new automobile.

Now his winning will come on the golf course. And, he said, he intends to "spend more time with my family. In recent years I've come to realize how important that is, but in athletics you tend to not have enough time for that." That family includes wife Mary and children Susan Allen, Jimmy Tom, Rebecca and Louisa, and three grandchildren.

Basketball Signees:

Tide Gets Some Spring Help

by Kirk McNair

Men and women have one spring signee each, and both looking for more

Alabama Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs had his eye on only two players for the spring signing period, and he was looking west to the neighboring state of Mississippi for them. One is in, but the watch continues for the other.

As of this writing, Antonio McDyess, the 6-9, 225-pound forward at Quitman, near Meridian, was reportedly deciding between offers from Alabama and Mississippi State. Published reports have said that McDyess favors the Crimson Tide, but that his mother prefers he stays in state. There have also been reports that Ole Miss might be in the picture, in part because the Rebels were reportedly dangling a coaching offer in front of McDyess' high school coach, Sammy Smith. (There is no prohibition against a college hiring a high school coach.) Mississippi has also reportedly charged that a Mississippi State booster has been involved in the recruiting of McDyess, which would be an NCAA violation.

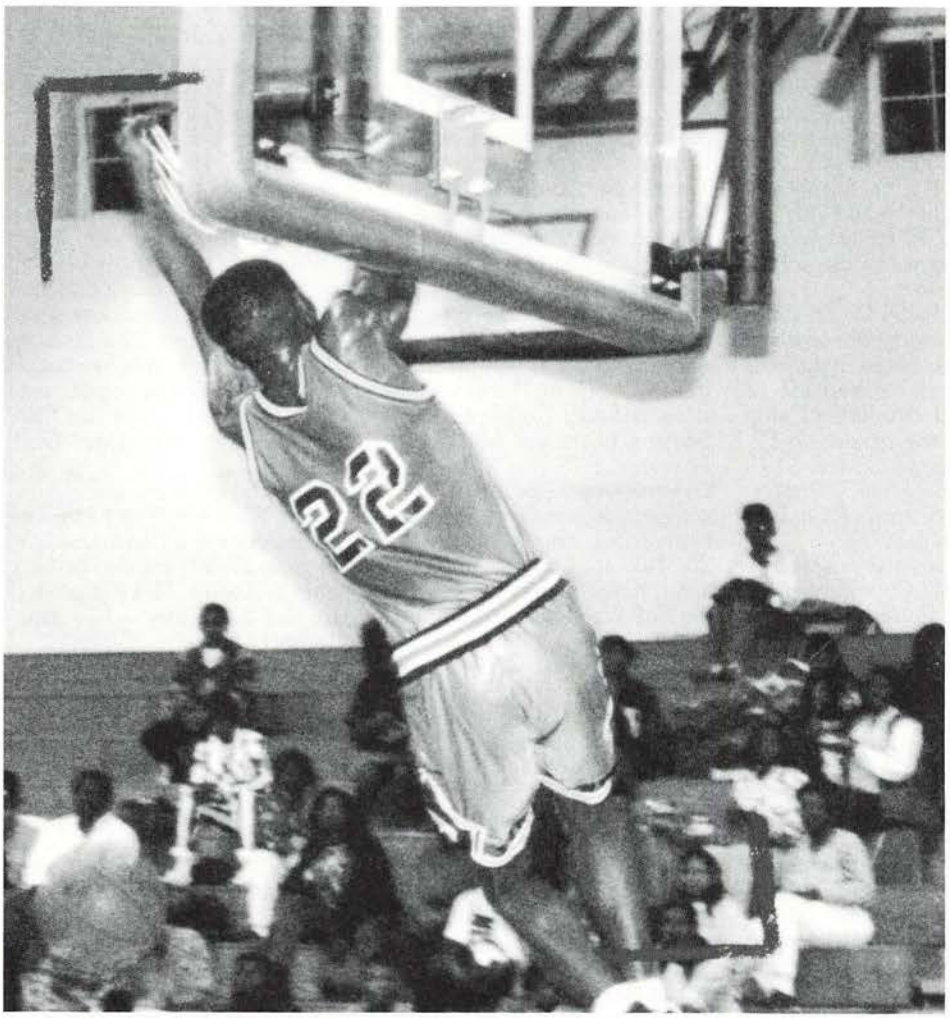
McDyess earned all-state and All-America honors as he averaged 26 points, 15 rebounds, 5.3 blocked shots and 2.8 steals per game in leading his team to a 22-12 record. Although he has the core curriculum for college eligibility, at last report he was still just short of the eligibility requirements on a national standardized test.

McDyess played in all-star games in Detroit and Louisville at the end of this season and has also been selected to play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game at the University of North Alabama in Florence June 12.

Basketball prospects have until May 15 to sign scholarships. If he does not sign by then, he will be able to enter a college in the fall and accept a scholarship at that time.

The other Mississippian, Eric Washington, signed with Bama on the first day possible. Washington, an excellent student as well as one of the nation's top prospects, was a 6-4 wing player for Coach Louis Love at Pearl High School near Jackson. He was all-state both as a junior and senior. Last season he averaged 23.7 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 blocked shots and 2 steals per game to lead his team to a 28-7 record. He scored 27 points in the second half of the Mississippi High School All-Star Game and was also selected for the KFC All-Star Game in Albany, Georgia. He has also been selected for the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game.

Washington said he decided to sign with Alabama because he liked the Tide coaches and the Bama style of play. And, he told the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, "When I saw them play Arkansas, I saw they needed some jump shooters. The coaches told me if I came in and worked hard, I could come in and play." Washington also said he was excited about the opportunity of playing with former Jackson Murrah star James Robinson, who will be a senior guard for Bama next season.



Alabama's first basketball signee of the spring signing period is Eric Washington of Pearl High School in Mississippi (above). The first signee for the Alabama women's team is Leah Monteith (right) of Centre.

His coach said, "I think Eric will fit in with anybody's program because of his athletic style of play."

Bama had one signee in the early period, 6-5 wing player Artie Griffin of South Plains Junior College in Levelland, Texas. Additionally, the Bama harvest for next year could be said to include one of the nation's outstanding players, junior 6-7 forward Jamal Faulkner, who transferred from Arizona State, practiced with the Tide this year, and will be eligible early next season.

Rick Moody's Crimson Tide women's team is one of the nation's best, and the Bama women may have gotten better this spring after having failed to sign a player in the early period last November.

Leah Monteith, "Miss Basketball" in the state of Alabama for 1993, led Cherokee County of Centre to back-to-back 4A state championships. The 5-9 guard scored more than 2,000 career points and set a state tournament record with 94 points in the three playoff games. She was the tournament MVP after scoring 29, 30 and 34 points (including four three-point shots within a two-minute span in the state championship game). For the year she averaged 23.7 points per game, along with 6 rebounds, 5 assists and 4 steals. She was a starter for four years. She will graduate with a perfect 4.0 academic average.

In addition to being the Alabama Sports Writers Association "Miss Basketball," she was named "Girls' Player of the Year" by the *Birmingham News* and was selected to play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game in Florence June 12.

If Summer Is Coming, So Are Tide Sports Camps

The University of Alabama Athletics Department offers a summer camp for virtually every sport that is a part of Bama's intercollegiate package. (In other words, Alabama does not have camps for water skiing, lacrosse, etc.) Most camps provide individual instruction and daily drills/competition and camps are held in the athletics facilities of The University. Resident campers are housed in dormitories on campus and are under 24-hour supervision and meals are provided in a University cafeteria. In addition to being headed by Alabama's coaching staff, in some cases former Tide athletes are also among the camp instructors. Following is a list of the camps and whom to contact. Unless otherwise indicated, call 205 348-6161 for further camp information.

Tennis: John Kreis' Tennis Camp is open to boys and girls, ages 9 through the end of their junior year in high school. Campers have the choice of selecting Day or Resident Camp. Two sessions of Day Camp only will be held June 21-25 and June 28-July 2 at $125 per session (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.). The combined Resident/Day Camp sessions are July 4-9, July 11-16 and July 18-23. Costs are $325 for Resident Camp and $200 for Day Camp (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.). Contact: John Kreis Crimson Tide Tennis Camp, 821 Ashland Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406.

Football: The Alabama Football Camp under Head Coach Gene Stallings has two sessions, both with offerings for different levels of skill. Skill Camp (includes offensive and defensive backs, tight ends and inside and outside linebackers) and Line Camp for grades 7-12 will be June 6-9. Session II is June 9-12 and includes Junior Camp for grades 2-6, and Skill and Line camps for grades 7-12. Offerings include both Resident and Day Campers. Cost is $175 per session for Day Campers and $200 for Resident Campers. Contact: Debbie Gibson, Alabama Football Camp, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 (Phone: 205 348-3600).

Football Kicking: The Tiffin-Mohr Kicking Camp conducted by former Tiders, placekicker Van Tiffin and punter Chris Mohr, will be June 13-16. Cost for the camp is $190 for Resident Campers or $175 for Day Campers. Camp is open to boys ages 9 through their junior year in high school. Contact: Dr. Gary White, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 (Phone 205 348-3600).

Boys' Basketball: The Alabama Basketball Camp, conducted by Bama Head Coach David Hobbs, will have two sessions, June 20-24 and June 27-July 1. Cost is $250 per session with a group rate of five or more at $235 per camper and the Day Camper rate (includes meals) of $210. Contact: Bama Basketball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Girls' Basketball: Rick Moody's Basketball Camp will have two sessions, a day camp and an overnight camp. The Overnight Camp session is June 13-16 and the Day Camp is June 17-19. This marks the first year for the Day Camp. Cost is $210 for the overnight camp ($190 per person for groups of five or more) and Day Camp fee is $50 per day and is from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact: Dottie Kelso, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Baseball: The Barry Shollenberger Baseball Camp has three sessions, a June 14-17 Day Camp for ages 6-17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., a July 7-10 Pitcher/Catcher Overnight Camp (which is also open to Day Campers) ages 8 through high school juniors, and a July 11-15 Overnight camp for all positions ages 8 and up (also open for Day Campers). Costs are $225 for the Pitcher/Catcher Camp ($160 for Day Campers) and $250 for the Overnight All Positions Camp ($180 for Day Campers). Contact: Barry Shollenberger Baseball Camp, P.O. Box 870303, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Swimming: The Alabama Swim Camp will hold five sessions, May 30-June 4, June 6-11, June 13-18, July 4-9 and July 11-16. Coaches Jonty Skinner and Vance Rose and Olympic Gold Medalist Jon Olsen are among the instructors. Costs are $350 for the first week and $290 for each additional week of the camp, $700 for two weeks and $250 for each additional week for the Alabama Elite Swim Camp, and $225 for Alabama Day Swim Camp. Contact: Alabama Swim Camp, P.O. Box 6103, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486 (phone 205 348-3914).

Golf: The Tide-Tiger Golf Academy is co-directed by Alabama Head Coach Dick Spybey and Auburn Head Coach Mike Griffin and is open to boys and girls ages 9 through their junior year in high school. The camp includes two sessions in Tuscaloosa and one in Auburn. The first regular session will be in Tuscaloosa June 6-10 and the second regular session will be June 27-July 1 in Auburn. There is also an Elite Session for golfers with handicaps from 0 to 10 in Tuscaloosa June 13-17. Cost for the regular sessions is $495 Resident and $300 Day Campers, while the Elite Session costs are $595 and $400. Contact: Tide-Tiger Golf Academy, P.O. Box 2564, Auburn, AL 36831.

Gymnastics: The Alabama Gymnastics Camp offers training to competitive female gymnasts of all levels from age 9 to juniors in high school. The full week camp dates are June 6-11 and June 20-25. Two minicamps, June 13-16 and June 27-30, are also offered and a junior high and high school camp is August 11-14. Cost for the Full Week camp is $330 Resident and $165 Day, while minicamp fees are $210 and $105. Contact: Alabama Gymnastics Camp, P.O. Box 253, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486 (phone 205 348-4578).

Volleyball: Alabama Head Volleyball Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed will conduct three sessions offering specific instruction in each, July 18-22 (Individual), June 22-25 (Specialty), and July 25-29 (Team). The Specialty Camp is a setter/hitter camp and campers must have at least one year of high school playing experience. The Team Camp is for high school teams and the coach must accompany the team (coach fee $25 for room and board). Fees for Individual and Team Camp are $230 for Resident, $190 for Day Campers and for the Specialty Camp $210 and $170. Contact: Dorothy Franco-Reed, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Athletic Training: The Tide hosts a Sports Medicine camp June 23-26 conducted by the athletics training staff. This camp is open to high school students and suggested for the high school coach. Contact: Dr. Ken Wright, (205) 348-8683.

All-Sports Signings:

Bama Adds To Its Athletics Family

by Donna Fromme

So-called non-revenue sports get highly-ranked additions to their teams

Although most of the attention on spring signings is in basketball, other sports at Alabama are also inking new players at this time. Although recruiting periods extend for various times, all sports except football and women's volleyball have both early signing periods in November and late signing periods beginning in April. A number of signees from the early period were profiled in the December and January issues of 'BAMA.

We may have further updates in the August issue since signings in these sports may continue, but here is a look at some signees in sports other than football and basketball:

Baseball

Shane Watts of Gadsden High School is a 6-1, 205-pound outfielder and infielder for Coach Rick Arthur. He is expected to be a center fielder at Bama. As a senior he batted .483 with four home runs, 22 runs batted in and had 12 stolen bases. He struck out only twice in 60 at-bats. As a junior he batted .535, as a sophomore .367 and as a freshman .361. His career average was .426. He has been selected to play in the East-West All-Star Game at Gadsden State on May 10.

Bama Coach Barry Shollenberger signed nine players in the early period last November. They are, from junior college: Infielder Robbie Hayduk, pitcher Scott Hickox, pitcher/outfielder Brian Wood, and first baseman/outfielder Jason Jordan; and from high school: catcher/outfielder David Ray, pitcher Chris Eilers, pitcher Roger Cainzos, pitcher Ferdie Rodriguez, and pitcher/infielder Joel Franks.

Unlike other sports, baseball will not know how many signees it has until the first day of classes next fall because players are drafted by professional teams and can sign professional contracts at any time prior to entering college.

Golf

Both the men's and women's golf teams signed players in the early period. Coach Dick Spybey's men added Chip Deason and Joe Patton, while the women of Coach Betty Palmer signed Julie Pelcher.

The women also have a spring signee, Stacy Buersmeyer of Citronelle. She played for Coach Tommy Ezell at Citronelle and was a member of the district championship team. She was 1992 Alabama Women's Golf Association state junior champion and medalist and in 1992 was medalist in all nine Jimmy Green, Jr. Tour events. The National Honor Society student comes by her talent naturally as her father, Casey, played professionally.

Gymnastics

Coach Sarah Patterson's three gymnastics signees all came in the early signing period. They are Kimberly Bonaventura, Meredith Willard and Stephanie Woods.

Swimming and Diving

Coach Jonty Skinner's swimming and diving teams have added two men and one woman. The men are: Chris LeMieus of St. Martin's Episcopal High School and the Great White Shard Swim Club in New Orleans. He is a 6-3, 160-pound sprint freestyler who was state champion at both 50 and 100 yards. And Scott Bell, and individual medley performer from Tremper High School in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The women's team has added Monica Geohagan of Kathleen High School and Brandon Swim Club of Lakeland, Florida. She is a freestyle and butterfly performer who qualified for Senior Nationals last summer.

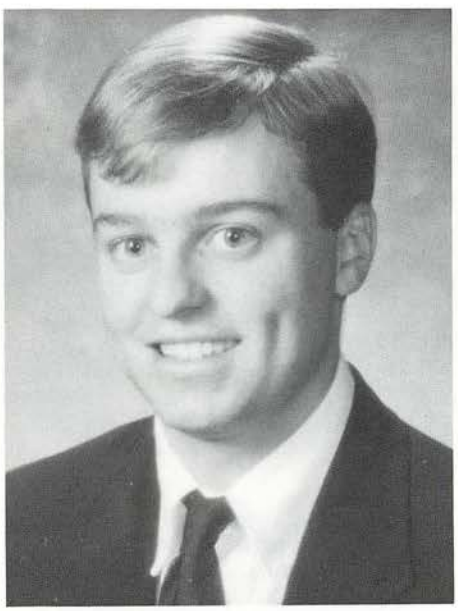
Track and Field

Coach Doug Williamson's track and field team has added one man and one woman. The men added the 1992 Alabama high school cross country champion, Preston Hill of Berry High School in Birmingham. Hill's performance led the Berry team to the state title this year. Last summer he was AAU sectional champion in the two-mile run. As a freshman he was a top 25 finisher at the cross country nationals.

The women added Becki Wells of Dickinson, North Dakota. She is a six-time high school national champion in the 800-, 1,500- and 3,000-meter runs. She was the winner of all three events at the 1992 Junior Olympics. Her top times of 2:10.5 in the 800 and 4:25.09 in the 1,500 are close to the qualifying marks for the collegiate national championships.

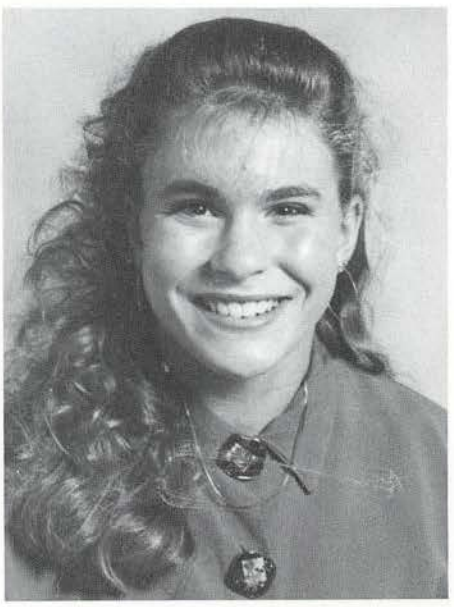
Volleyball

Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed's five volleyball signees were announced previously. They are: Sandy Ford, Tamika McCall, Lorian Newcomer, Alberta Sackey and Sheri Thomas.

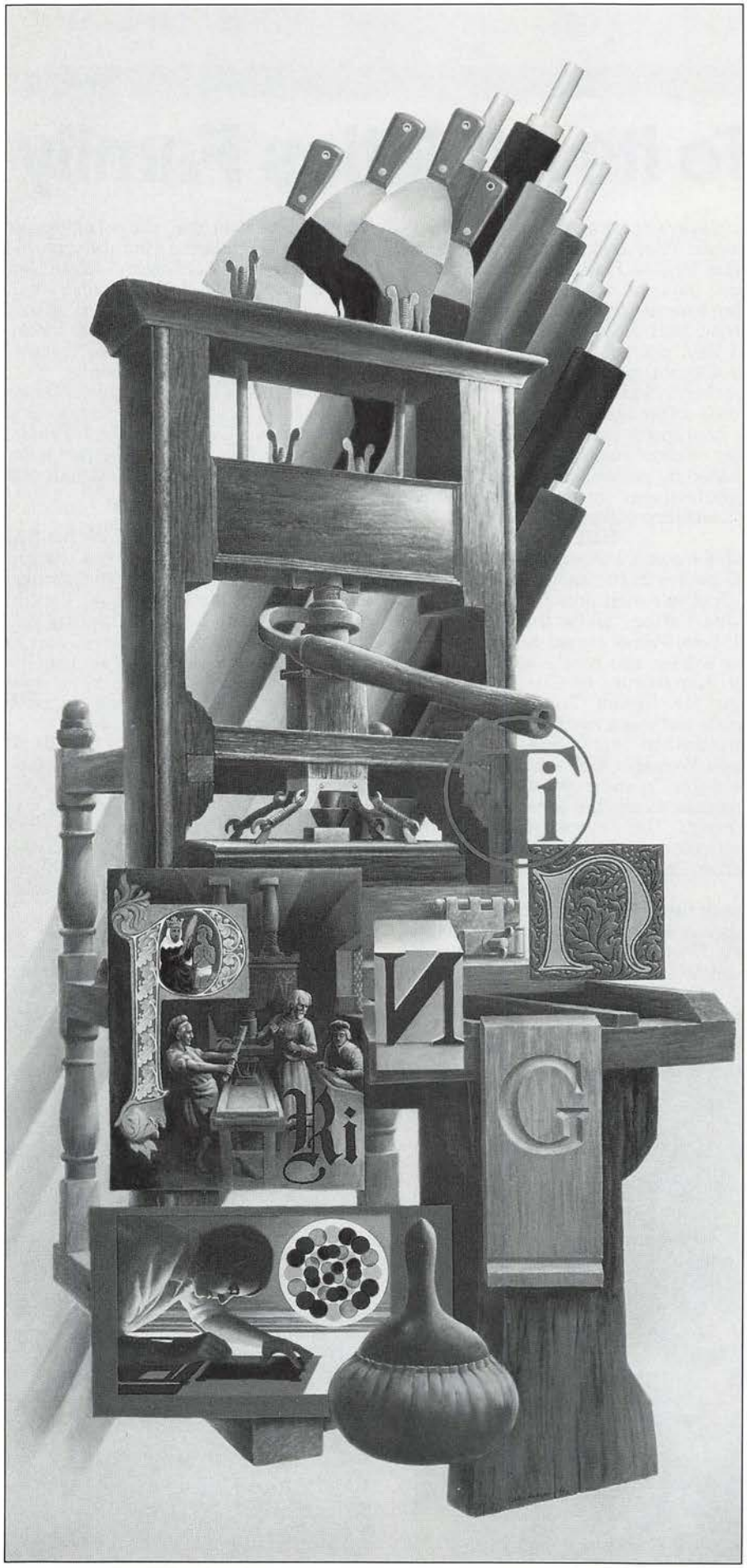


Joe Patton

Kimberly Bonaventura



Meredith Willard



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Men's Tennis:

The Best Year Ever For Tide

by Donna Fromme

Crimson Tide successes were unprecedented in a storybook season

Juan Carlos Bianchi is easily one of the nation's best collegiate tennis players and he has number 21 singles and number five doubles rankings by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association to back it. Yet Bianchi is amazed at the talent that has surrounded him all season, his first, on the Alabama men's tennis team.

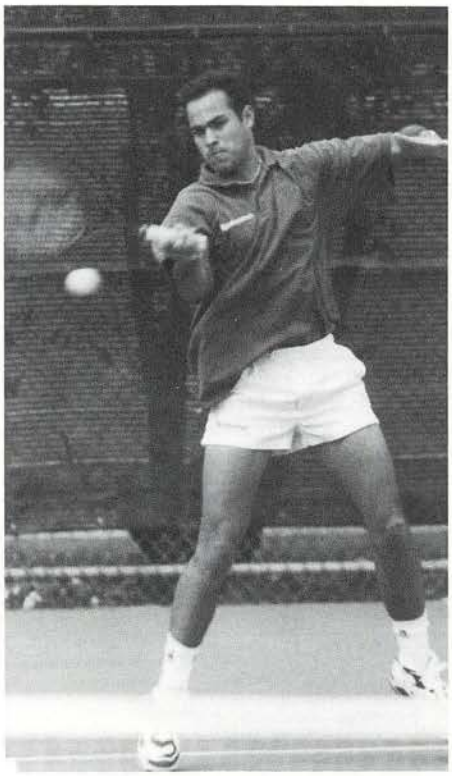
"We've got some unbelievably good players on our team," said the Venezuelan who made his country's Davis Cup team when he was still playing as a junior. "Like Matt (Turner). He's playing at number four, but he could just as easily be playing at number one. He hits the ball harder than (Andre) Agassi."

Perhaps it is the mutual respect they share for one another that has helped shape the 1993 Alabama tennis team into one of the greatest ever at the Capstone, a team that defeated three top 10 ranked teams and 10 top 25 ranked teams during the regular season. Alabama compiled a regular season record of 18-3 and was 9-2 in Southeastern Conference matches, second only to Mississippi State's 8-1 mark. Bama's number nine Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranking was the highest ever for the program that dates from 1949.

Senior All-America Rick Witsken said, "I don't necessarily think we have an unbelievable amount of talent on our team, but I know there's a strong feeling of a competitive, close-knit group off the court and we all relate to each other. I think we genuinely care for each other as a group. Tennis is such an individual sport that usually you get a lot of egos with selfish desires. This year we don't think of individual rankings and individual results. We think of the team results and the team standings."

There is no denying the impact Bianchi and Witsken have made in the Tide's lineup. Bianchi, who transferred to Alabama this season after NAIA school Trevecca Nazarene in Nashville dropped tennis, came in blazing and never cooled off. His collected wins over players with the national rankings of number one, number six, number 12 and number 16. His strong play was reflected in the latest rankings, in which he had jumped an astonishing 40 spots from his previous ranking of number 61.

John Kreis' Alabama team will make the



Juan Carlos Bianchi made his first season at Alabama a very impressive one.
University of Alabama Photo

field of 20 teams at the May 14-23 NCAA Championships. It will be Kreis' third Alabama squad to make the national championship field. And Bianchi is assured of being selected to participate in both the national championship singles and doubles draws as well. In typical "Tide Player 1993" fashion, Bianchi is going into nationals with the intent to win it all.

"It is my goal," Bianchi said. "I know it's going to be hard. Before I came here I knew that there were a lot of good players in the NCAA, and every player who plays has a goal to win the NCAA. It's something I want and I'm going to work hard to try to make it happen."

And he likes Alabama's chances in the team competition. "I think we've got a great team," Bianchi said. "We lost a lot of matches because we lost at five and six early in the year, but we're improving a lot at those spots. I know Alabama had a bad season last year (9-13), but this is a different team. Everyone is working hard and Coach Kreis is doing a good job."

Team tennis takes a collective effort, and Kreis' players have given him just that. In March Alabama made it to the finals of the Blue Gray Classic, a Montgomery tournament that featured 11 ranked teams in its field of 16. Alabama's three wins in the tournament included downing the number six and number ten ranked teams. That tournament as much as any is indicative of Alabama being a complete team. In that tournament Bama used nine different players and all nine scored.

Kreis said, "Anytime you play in a league with nine teams ranked in the top 25 and with 11 of the nation's top 25 ranked individuals, you have to get a contribution from everyone on your team to be successful. Our record is a result of great leadership from our upperclassmen and all nine players making a contribution toward the improvement throughout the year. Every player on this team competed hard for a spot in the lineup, and that's made everybody work hard to get better. When you've got people pushing hard from the bottom, it helps right on up to the top. There's no question that these players put the team first. And they have that unselfishness and that team spirit that is as good as any time I've ever been around."

Bianchi has played the majority of matches at number one this year, but Witsken, Cecil Brandon and Matt Turner are all capable of playing at that spot. Brandon had a 30-6 record during the year. Turner's wins gave Alabama critical points in 4-3 wins against number 10 Alabama-Birmingham, number eight Mississippi State, number 14 Kentucky and number 21 Florida. Sophomore Anders Lindgren dropped down a spot on the ladder and filled in the "Black Hole" at number six, a spot riddled by losses early in the year. Three swing players–Mohamed Elwany, Marc Hayden and Mark Johnson–all contributed as Alabama turned in five shutout victories during the year.

Witsken said, "I knew from the beginning of the season that we had the potential to be a top five team. I don't expect us to be complacent about a number nine ranking. I expect us to continue to improve and, hopefully, win the national championship." Witsken, who teams with Bianchi to rate as one of the nation's top doubles teams, could also make the individual field at the NCAA tournament in singles competition as he has posted wins over five ranked players, including the nation's seventh-rated collegian.

"I think it would be really neat if this year we might be able to start a new era of the Alabama tennis team being in the national spotlight, similar to what the football team has always been," Witsken said. "Coach Kreis has done a good job. I know he's really stuck by my side throughout my four years, and he's really helped me mature personally as much as he's helped the team mature as a unit."

BAMA SCORECARD

Fall Football Dates

Alabama freshmen football players will tentatively report for the evening meal on August 5 and begin workouts in shorts on August 6. Returning players report for the evening meal August 11 and begin workouts in shorts August 13. The first day of contact work is expected to be August 17. Although a Fan Appreciation Day has not yet been announced, it is expected to be Sunday, August 15, with players and coaches available for autographs and photographs.

Basketball Awards

James Robinson, a unanimous All-Southeastern Conference selection, was named the most valuable player for Alabama's 1992-93 basketball team. Robinson led Alabama in scoring for the third straight year last season, averaging 20.6 points per game, and is the sixth-leading scorer in Crimson Tide history. He needs only 355 points in his senior year to catch Reggie King for the all-time scoring title at Alabama.

A surprisingly large crowd of over 800 turned out for the Tuscaloosa Tipoff Club's annual banquet to honor the Bama basketball team April 8.

Jason Caffey, who averaged 8.1 rebounds per game in his sophomore season, second best in the SEC, won the rebounding award. Other award winners were: Hayden Riley Scholarship Award to redshirt freshman Wade Kaiser, Guy Lee Turner Memorial Defensive Player Award to junior forward Walter Pitts, and the Hustle Award to walkon senior guard Jeff Lovell.

More Basketball Awards

Jimmy Hyams, a columnist for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, writes a syndicated column covering the SEC. He recently announced his own awards in SEC basketball, including the most improved player, Bama's Jason Caffey, who improved his scoring average by 12.5 points and his rebound average by almost 7.0. Hyams fell into the same trap of most journalists in calling Tide guard James Robinson the league's most overrated player. Robinson was a unanimous All-SEC selection in voting by the head coaches.

Alabama's National Championship Football Teams

Year	Champion(s)	Selectors
1925	**Alabama** (10-0)	Football Annual, Helms
	Dartmouth (8-0)	Dickinson, Davis
1926	**Alabama** 9-0-1)	Helms
	Stanford (10-0-1)	Dickinson
	Lafayette (9-0)	Davis
	Navy (9-0-1)	Football Annual
1930	**Alabama** (10-0)	Davis (tie)
	Notre Dame (10-0)	Davis (tie), Dickinson, Dunkel, Football Annual Helms, Football Thesaurus
1934	**Alabama** (10-0)	Dunkel, Williamson, Football Thesaurus,
	Minnesota (8-0)	Dickinson, Litkenhous, Helms, Football Annual, Davis (tie)
	Pittsburgh (8-1)	Davis (tie)
1941	**Alabama** (9-2)	Football Thesaurus
	Minnesota (8-0)	AP, Litkenhous, Dunkel, Helms, Football Annual
	Texas (8-1-1)	Williamson
1961	**Alabama** (11-0)	All but Football Writers
	Ohio State (9-0-1)	Football Writers
1964	**Alabama** (10-1)	AP, UPI, Litkenhous
	Arkansas (11-0)	Football Writers, Helms
	Notre Dame (9-1)	Hall of Fame
	Michigan (9-1)	Dunkel
1965	**Alabama** (9-1-1)	AP, Football Writers
	Michigan State (10-1)	UPI, Helms, Hall of Fame, Dunkel, Litkenhous
1973	**Alabama** (11-1)	UPI
	Notre Dame (11-0)	All but UPI, Dunkel
	Oklahoma (10-0-1)	Dunkel
1978	**Alabama** (11-1)	All but UPI, Sporting News
	Southern Cal (11-1)	UPI, Sporting News
1979	**Alabama** (12-0)	Unanimous
1992	**Alabama** (13-0)	Unanimous

Lovell Can't Return

Alabama had hoped that walkon senior guard Jeff Lovell, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in a basketball game at Ole Miss, would be able to return for the 1993-94 season under the redshirt injury rule. However, even though that was only Lovell's third game, it was the Tide's 22nd game, and a season-ending injury must occur in the first half of the season for the injured player to be eligible for an additional season.

Academic Sweep

Leslie Claybrook, a forward for the Alabama women's basketball team, is a rare three-time Academic All-SEC performer. Freshmen are not eligible for the academic team, but Claybrook made it as a sophomore, junior and this year. She is an English major who plans to enter The University's School of Law.

Low Rated

Although Alabama's women's basketball team was given a fifth seed in the NCAA Mideast Regional, indicating it is one of the nation's top 20 teams in the eyes of the NCAA, Coach Rick Moody's squad didn't fare as well in other votes. Although Bama missed making the Sweet 16 when the Tide fell in overtime to North Carolina at North Carolina on a last second luck shot, the final Associated Press poll of college women's basketball teams did not include Alabama. However, the coaches' poll, conducted by *USA Today* and CNN, had Alabama 25th.

Long Rangers

For the second consecutive year, Alabama's women's basketball team has led the nation in three-point field goals. Bama averaged a national best 7.6 per game, led by Betsy Harris, who made 89 three-point shots (including an SEC Tournament record of seven against LSU).

Academic Swimmers

The Alabama women's swimming and diving team placed a record seven members on the Academic All-SEC Team, while the men put five performers on the honor squad. Making the Academic All-SEC from Coach Jonty Skinner's teams were: Women–Junior Nathalie Dietiker, senior Rita Garay, sophomore Stacy Gillies, junior JoDee Lake, sophomore Helga Sigurdardottir, sophomore Jill Tappen and senior Teri Williams; and Men–Senior Darren Brudos, junior Peter Doig, junior Juan Lopez, senior Jamey Myers and sophomore David Strassburg. It was Myers' third straight appearance on the list.

Bryant Award Winners

Each year the Tuscaloosa County

Chapter of The University of Alabama National Alumni Association presents the Paul W. Bryant Student-Athlete Award to a top male and female Bama athlete. This year's winners are women's tennis player Titia Wilmink, who has a 3.9 academic average in sports marketing and management, and baseball player Jeff Laubenthal, who has a 3.8 grade point average in English. Laubenthal was also last year's SEC Scholar-Athlete Award winner.

Other nominees were George Wilson, football; Leslie Claybrook, women's basketball; Dana Dobransky, gymnastics; Kristye Hall, volleyball; Vicky Lynch and Mike Williams, track; Marten Olander and Tina Kjellen, golf; Rick Witsken, men's tennis; and Jamey Myers and Nathalie Dietiker, swimming.

Gymnastics Success

Coach Sarah Patterson's Bama gymnastics team had a spectacular year, finishing second in the nation. Senior Dana Dobransky successfully defended her national championship with a perfect score on beam and Dee Foster, the Tide's other senior, won four All-America citations, giving her a national record 17 All-America awards.

Gymnastics Awards

The Alabama Gymnastics Team had its annual awards banquet April 26 with Dee Foster winning the Most Valuable Athlete Award. Foster had five scores of 10 during the year and has a national record seven for her career. She and Dana Dobransky were also given awards for serving as co-captains. Chasity Junkin was named most improved athlete and Kim Kelly most valuable freshman. Additionally, the newest award will be the Dana Dobransky Commitment to Excellence Award, which will be presented annually to the gymnast most accomplished in the fields of academics, athletics, community service and team leadership.

Athletes Of The Year

The Alabama Sports Writers Association selects numerous athletes of the year in various categories each year and this year there is a first. A woman was named Alabama's Amateur Athlete of the Year. Bama gymnast Dee Foster beat out the likes of Tide football players Eric Curry, John Copeland and George Teague for the honor.

She and the other athletes will be honored at a banquet at the Birmingham Jefferson County Civic Center during the the ASWA's annual convention June 14. Foster will have to get some time off from her job as a sports psychology intern with the Atlanta Braves to attend the convention.

Also to be honored will be the state's Mr. Football, Tide signee Freddie Kitchens of Attalla, and Miss Basketball, Bama signee Leah Monteith of Centre, as well as a number of other honorees.

Hall Of Fame Candidate

There are dozens and dozens of Halls of Fame, but when one thinks of THE Hall of Fame, it is probably the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York.

There may or may not be some in the Baseball Hall of Fame who are not worthy, but there is certainly one man not there who should be.

Former Alabama baseball star Riggs Stephenson (1919-21) owns the highest major league lifetime batting average of any player not in the Hall of Fame. A lifetime .336 hitter, Stephenson played for the Cleveland Indians and Chicago Cubs after he left Alabama. His selection now depends on a committee which selects Old Timers for the Hall of Fame.

Stephenson died in 1985. MarLa Sayers, wife of University President Dr. Roger Sayers, is Stephenson's daughter.

Stephenson was one of 50 men selected to the two teams–old timers and modern–named by Alabama in celebration of the first century of Crimson Tide baseball. Those teams, which were announced last month, included two men who were also named to Alabama's all-time football team–Dixie Howell and Fred Sington.

Those teams also included two men with major league managing experience, Luke Sewell, who managed for 10 years in the 1940s and '50s and current Boston Red Sox manager Butch Hobson. It also included Alabama's two assistant baseball coaches, Bobby Sprowl and Bobby Pierce.

And a reader pointed out to us that pitcher Joe Kirkland, who was listed as playing in 1947, also played in 1948.

Resignations

Two high-profile members of the college athletics community with past Crimson Tide ties recently resigned athletics directors positions at their alma maters to go into other fields.

Charley Thornton, the longtime right-hand man of Paul Bryant at Alabama, resigned as director of athletics at Arkansas State, while former Bama Assistant Football Coach John David Crow stepped down at Texas A&M. Crow, who played for Bryant at Texas A&M where he won the Heisman Trophy and played with current Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings, will remain with A&M in a fund-raising capacity. He resigned because he is joining Paul Bryant, Jr. in the operation of Gulf Greyhound Park in La Marque, Texas.

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(Incidentally, anyone not currently receiving his 'Bama with a ZIP+4 number should also send that to us. If you don't know your final four numbers, call your local postmaster. *Everyone* has a 9-digit ZIP code.)

Alabama Network

There's a new representative of the Alabama Athletics Department in football and basketball game programs, radio and pay-per-view television broadcasts, coaches' radio and television shows, coaches' endorsements and promotions. Host Communications of Lexington, Kentucky, has had that business for the past few years, but now it belongs to The Alabama Sports Network (TASN), a division of Collegiate Sports Partners, Ltd, in Birmingham.

Alabama Press Guides

The University of Alabama sports information office is now taking orders for 1993 Crimson Tide football media guides. The guide will be mailed in early August, but may be ordered now for $15 by sending a check payable to University of Alabama and mailed to Football Media Guide, Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. Also, orders may also be sent for the 1993-94 men's basketball press guide ($10) and for both the 1994 baseball and gymnastics media guides ($8 each). The NCAA has rescinded the rule prohibiting sales of press guides by news dealers, so sometime prior to next football season the Bama football media guide will be available at some news agencies.

NCAA Publications

The NCAA has over 50 publications covering every collegiate sport. For a catalog of available publications write NCAA Publishing, P.O. Box 7347, Overland Park, KS 66207-0347.

The Best Laid Plans

Retired Mississippi State Sports Information Director Bob Hartley now writes a column for *Dawgs' Bite*, a publication covering Mississippi State athletics. He recently reported Mississippi State's Orange Bowl trophy from the 1940 season had been given to one of the star players on that team, and the player's widow still has it with instructions passed on by her late husband: to return the trophy to Mississippi State when the Bulldogs win their next SEC football championship.

Hartley, who has a keen sense of humor, wrote: "I didn't mean to give the impression that I am not a positive thinker, but I did ask her if she had made her children aware of this promise. She assured me she had, saying 'I've even told my grandchildren.' "

Mississippi State has won one SEC football title, in 1941.

1993 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date/ Score	OPPONENT	Time/ Opp. Score
3	@ South Alabama	4
21	@ South Alabama	6
5	South Alabama (10 innings)	6
5	South Alabama	4
6	TCU	13
7	TCU	16
11	Georgia State	3
8	Louisiana Tech	5
5	Richmond	11
4	Richmond	10
17	Richmond	4
March 13	Michigan State (2)	ppd. snow
March 14	Michigan State	ppd. snow
6	Middle Tennessee	4
12	Middle Tennessee	7
2	Michigan	4
7	Michigan	6
5	Michigan	8
6	Auburn @ Huntsville	5
3	Kentucky	6
4	Kentucky	7
8	Kentucky	7
6	@ South Florida	11
2	@ South Florida	0
11	Boston @ Tampa (Exh.)	12
6	@ Vanderbilt	4
8	@ Vanderbilt	6
5	@ Vanderbilt	7
8	@ Middle Tennessee	5
8	Alabama-Birmingham	9
4	@ Alabama-Birmingham	2
7	Georgia	0
1	Georgia	3
3	Georgia	4
13	Murray State	5
12	Murray State	3
4	@ Mississippi State	7
0	@ Mississippi State	2
3	@ Mississippi State	9
April 20	Alcorn State	ppd. rain
3	Ole Miss (13 innings)	2
2	Ole Miss	6
3	Ole Miss	6
April 27	@ Samford	3:00
April 28	Samford	7:00
April 29	Troy State @ Dothan	7:00
May 1	@ LSU (2)	2:00
May 2	@ LSU	2:00
May 8	Arkansas (2)	4:00
May 9	Arkansas	2:00
May 11	@ Western Kentucky	3:00
May 14	Auburn @ Montgomery	7:00
May 15	@ Auburn	6:00
May 16	@ Auburn	1:30
May 20-23	SEC West Tournament @ Baton Rouge	

Men's Tennis

Date/ Score	OPPONENT	Time/ Opp. Score
7	SW Louisiana	0
7	Samford	0
7	Middle Tennessee	0
7	Tulane	0
5	@ Miami	2
4	Arizona @ Miami	3
5	@ South Carolina	2
1	@ Georgia	6
March 13	Alabama-B'ham	ppd. snow
March 19-22	Blue-Gray Classic @ Montgomery	
5	Indiana	2
5	North Carolina	2
4	Alabama-Birmingham	3
2	Notre Dame	5
4	Mississippi State	3
4	@ Vanderbilt	3
4	@ Kentucky	3
4	@ Florida	3
1	Louisiana State	6
6	Arkansas	1
5	Mississippi	2
7	Auburn	0
5	Tennessee	2
April 22-25	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	
2	Florida	5
May 14-23	NCAA Championships @ Athens, Ga.	

Women's Tennis

Date/ Score	OPPONENT	Time/ Opp. Score
	COMMODORE CUP	
7	(South Florida	2
7	Illinois	2
4	@ North Carolina	5
5	@ Kentucky	4
4	Clemson	5
9	Mississippi State	0
4	@ Mississippi	5
6	South Carolina	2
6	Tennessee	3
5	@ Louisiana State	4
6	@ Houston	0
	San Diego Invitational	
6	Fresno State	0
5	Northwestern	4
5	San Diego State	4
7	@ UC Santa Barbara	2
3	Harvard @ Santa Barbara	0
9	Arkansas	0
0	Florida	6
7	Vanderbilt	0
7	@ Auburn	2
1	@ Georgia	5
April 29-May 2	SEC Championships @ Nashville	
May 12-20	NCAA Championships @ Gainesville, Fla.	

Men's Golf

Date	TOURNAMENT
March 12-14	Golf Digest Invitational @ Houston (9th of 15 teams)
March 26-27	Southeastern Invitational @ Montgomery (5th of 18 teams)
April 3-4	Carpet Capital Collegiate @ Dalton, Ga. (tied 10th of 16 teams)
April 16-17	Blazer Invitational @ Birmingham (1st of 18 teams)
April 23-25	Billy Hitchcock Invitational @ Auburn
May 9-11	SEC Championships @ Jacksonville, Fla.
May 20-22	NCAA East Regional @ Charlottesville, Va.

Women's Golf

Date	TOURNAMENT
Feb. 12-14	Lady Gator Invitational @ Gainesville, Fla. (6th of 12 teams)
March 19-21	LSU Fairwood @ Baton Rouge, La. (8th of 17 teams)
March 26-28	South Carolina Invitational @ Columbia, S.C. (10th of 18 teams)
April 16-18	Southern Intercollegiate @ Athens, Ga. (9th of 19 teams)
April 30-May 2	SEC Championships @ Jackson, Miss.
May 13-15	NCAA Qualifying @ Baton Rouge, La.

Men's Track

Date	MEET
March 26-28	Alabama Relays
April 8-10	Dogwood Relays @ Knoxville (8th of 29 teams)
April 17	SEC Six-Way @ Athens, Ga. (4th)
April 23-24	Drake Relays @ Des Moines, Iowa
May 1	@ Auburn Classic
May 13-16	SEC Championships @ Knoxville
May 22	Griffen Invitational @ Atlanta
May 27	NCAA Qualifiers @ Tallahassee, Fla.
June 2-5	NCAA Championships @ New Orleans

Women's Track

Date	MEET
March 26-28	Alabama Relays
April 8-10	Dogwood Relays @ Knoxville (1st of 24 teams)
April 17	SEC Six-Way @ Athens, Ga. (2nd)
April 23-24	Drake Relays @ Des Moines, Iowa
May 1	@ Auburn Classic
May 13-16	SEC Championships @ Knoxville
May 22	Griffen Invitational @ Atlanta
May 27	NCAA Qualifiers @ Tallahassee, Fla.
June 2-5	NCAA Championships @ New Orleans

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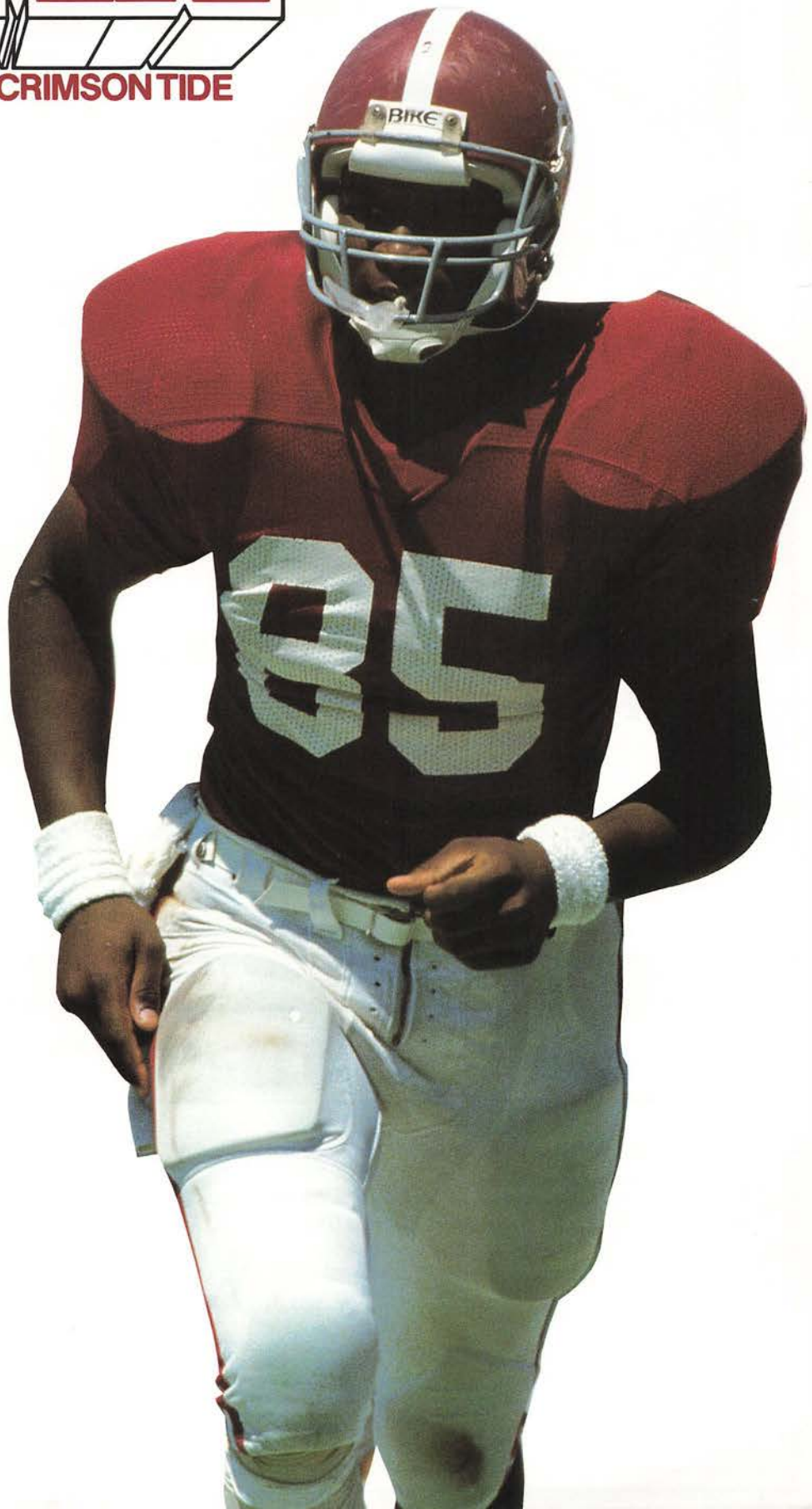

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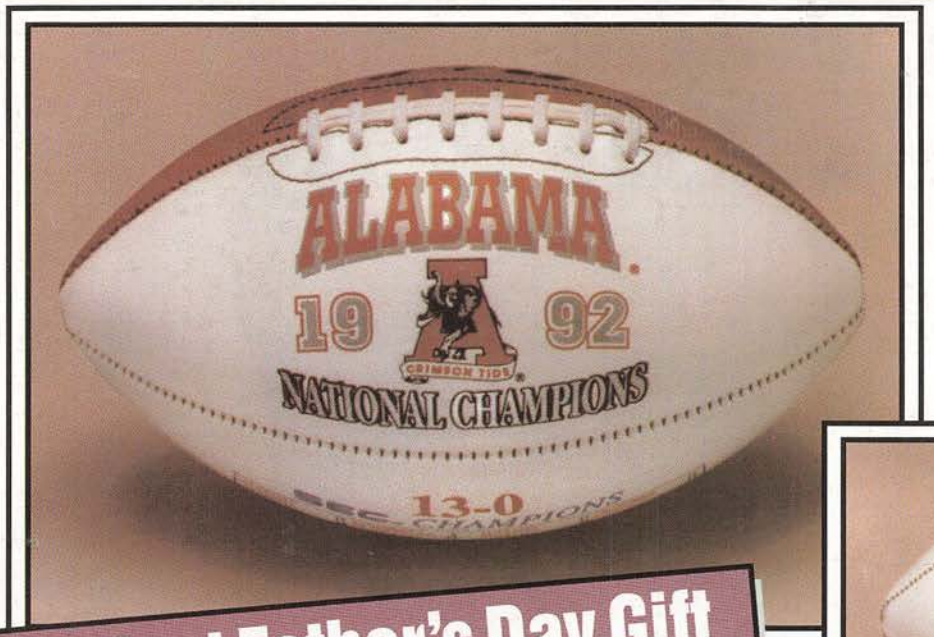

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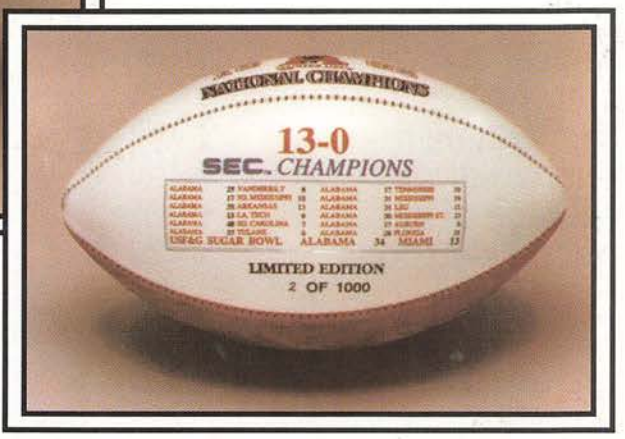

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